

مكتبة من الاموال

Westminster swept by fresh attack of election fever

By Our Political Staff

A fresh attack of general election frenzy seemed to have afflicted politicians at Westminster yesterday...

The decisions by Mr Steel and Mr Jenkins to change their plans stemmed from the belief, voiced at a meeting of their parties' leadership yesterday, that Mrs Thatcher might go for an election on June 9...

Government would be able to complete all of its legislation by the end of next week...

The two parties have calculated that, by rearranging its business plans in the Lords, the Conservative Government...

Questions of state

During an interview with Julian Haviland, Our Political Editor (page 5), Mrs Thatcher answered questions on the election date...



Royal guard: The Queen, framed by Yeoman Warders, yesterday opening the first stage of the Wall Walk, which runs around the Tower of London. (Photograph: Brian Morris)

The Hitler Diaries First instalment discloses details of Hess plan

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Stern magazine begins publication today of the controversial Hitler diaries, maintaining in its first instalment on Rudolf Hess that his flight to Scotland in 1941 was secretly conceived in 1939...

Germany about a possible understanding

Hess conceived his personal mission, and sent the details to Hitler by courier on June 25, 1939. The following night Hitler wrote in his diary...

Argentine trip ends in anger

The ship carrying relatives of Argentine servicemen killed in the Falklands conflict headed back to Buenos Aires amid reports of anger on board over the failure to visit war graves on the islands.

One Argentine journalist called the trip a "catastrophe" and reports spoke of growing confrontation between the relatives and the Argentine government...

Shipyard sit-in threatened

Shipbuilding workers' leaders have said that, unless the employers reverse their decision to make at least 9,000 workers redundant, they will call on the employees to occupy the yards.

Second quake

A second tremor, measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale, sent people running into the streets in Coalinga, California, but it caused little further damage.

Italian election

President Pertini of Italy dissolved Parliament in preparation for an early general election in June...

Envoys expelled

The Iranian Foreign Ministry told 18 Soviet diplomats, serving at the embassy in Tehran and elsewhere, that they had to leave the country within 48 hours.

Seaside rift

Mr Brian Rix, secretary general of Mencap, who attended a conference aiming to heal a bitter dispute over the number of mentally handicapped visitors to a holiday resort...

Substitute Lion

Steve Bainbridge, the England and Goshford lock forward, replaces Donal Lenihan, of Ireland, who has a hernia, in the British Lions party who leave today for a tour of New Zealand.

Record Post Office profit

Record profits of about £136m, nearly twice the corporation's target, were made by the Post Office last year and there will be no price rises before January at the earliest...

£3m offer for Aintree rejected

The Grand National is still £1m away from salvation. The Aintree appeal failed by £2m to raise the money to buy the racehorse...

Sotheby's inquiry ordered

The battle for control of Sotheby's, the London-based fine art auctioneers, was halted yesterday when Lord Cockfield, the Trade Secretary, referred the £60m bid by two New York financiers for a six-month investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Tories hope for low local poll

Party officials on all sides yesterday predicted only a light turnout for the local elections which are taking place in 369 district councils throughout England and Wales today.

A low turnout would be good news for the Conservatives for it would be a sign that high levels of unemployment were not a major issue at elections.

Party professionals were generally ultra-cautious over today's polling, which looks unlikely to produce much change in the political geography, however much significance the psephologists place on the final voting percentages.

For the Conservatives, the signs are that these elections will be a further demonstration of the party's electoral solidity across a swathe of the country from Kent to Devon and from Hampshire to rural North Yorkshire.

In any "normal" year Labour should romp home in its traditional districts such as Gateshead and Wolverhampton and take control of Birmingham as well as Bradford, Calderdale and Rochdale.

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Table with 3 columns: Location (London, South-west, N Ireland), Blackspots, and Waiting Time in Weeks.

Soviet offer ruffles US

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday cautiously welcomed Mr Yuri Andropov's latest missile proposal but pointed out that there was still "not the basic willingness (by the Soviet Union) to make the kinds of reductions which President Reagan has been talking about."

Until now the Soviet Union has insisted on missile-by-missile counting, largely because its SS20 missiles have three warheads while the Pershing two and ground-launched cruise missiles which the United States is planning to deploy in Western Europe at the end of this year have only one each.

Mr Andropov's speech, made on Tuesday night, has caused some consternation in the United States, where it is regarded as a further attempt to turn European public opinion against the deployment of the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

The statement is seen to contain deliberate ambiguities. For example, has suggestion that warheads should be the proper unit of account is seen as a step in the right direction and has been welcomed by the United States.

But, Mr Andropov's continued insistence that British and French strategic systems be included as part of the Nato arsenal is as unacceptable to the Americans as it is to the British and the French.

American sources pointed out that Mr Andropov was well aware of the US position on the British and French missiles before he made his speech, which is why they suspect his primary motive for putting forward his new proposal may have been propaganda.

Mr Weinberger's remarks were in line with a statement issued by the State Department shortly after Mr Andropov's speech which said the Soviet leader appeared to have hardened his position by insisting on the inclusion of the British and French systems.

The statement said the US and its Nato allies had frequently emphasized they could not accept Soviet demands for the right to maintain nuclear forces equal to all other states combined. "Unfortunately Mr Andropov made it clear that such a demand remains the cornerstone of the Soviet position."

World reactions, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Table with 3 columns: Location, Blackspots, and Waiting Time in Weeks.

PLEASE GIVE ALL YOU CAN TO FIGHT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS NOW. IT'S STILL LESS THAN IT COULD COST THE NEXT GENERATION.

Labour wants councils to control police

POLICE BILL

Confidence in the police would not be restored until democratic control over them was recreated. Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said, when the report stage of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill was resumed in the Commons...

Over 1,500 defence jobs going to Glasgow

Details of the revised Ministry of Defence dispersal package for Glasgow were set out in the Commons by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence. This follows a review of the proposals of February 1 in the light of subsequent organizational changes and manpower reductions...

BBC accused of bias on Central America

THIRD WORLD

The BBC and the Panorama team in particular, were criticized for unbalanced reporting of events in Central America by a group of MPs during a debate in the House of Lords on expanding Soviet influence in the Third World...

Lyons: Absurd that 44 men decide policing

The police were far more detached from the people they served than they had ever been. The demand to make them more part of the community they served was irresistible. If it was not obtained in this Parliament it would be obtained in the next if not then it would inevitably come. It was what the people the police served wanted and would get.



Wrigglesworth: Damage by left-wing activists

interest to maintain confidentiality in relationships, for instance that between journalists and those giving them information. The House set all night completing the recommissioning of the Bill on Clause 9 and 10 and beginning the report stage.

BR coach order

Questioned about investment in British Rail's Inter City services, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written Commons reply that the Railways Board had identified an immediate business need for 60 Mark III day coaches. He had given consent to the board's proposal to order these coaches at a cost of £11.163,000.

How East Yorkshire came to be in Humberside

Nine years after local councils were reorganised, there are scores of district councils still shrouded in obscurity. Where, for example, is the borough of Gedling, what exotic delights are on offer in Medina; how come Sedgfield and Sedgemoor do not relate to the same piece of sedge? By what quirk is the borough of East Yorkshire not in Yorkshire at all but in Humberside? Answer: it changed its name by deed poll in disgust at Yorkshire's partition in 1974.

Chow Mein scores in 'bandit country'

Two Vietnamese "boat people" have been given a warm welcome in the heart of Northern Ireland's "bandit country", as an area so dangerous that British soldiers are taken in and out of their barracks by helicopter. Their Chinese restaurant in the infamous village of Crossmaglen is attracting customers from 15 miles away in the Republic of Ireland. But the security forces will not be entering Crossmaglen on the premises.

Swing door killed professor

Professor Albert Devonshire, aged 71, a retired university lecturer in theoretical physics, died after being struck by a swing door at the Department of Zoology at Bristol University, a Bristol inquest was told yesterday. He fell backwards, striking his head on concrete. The heavy door had been opened by Mr Richard Corfield, a third-year zoology student who was leaving the building on March 11.



Railwaymen and post office workers removing mailbags from the derailed train.

Mail train runs into cement wagons

A train driver was critically ill in hospital last night after his train ran into cement wagons which had been derailed at sidings in Hope, Derbyshire. A spokesman at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield said that Mr Colin Fawley, aged 45, from Sheffield, had broken both legs. The accident happened as the late-night mail train from Manchester to Sheffield approached the sidings just before midnight on Tuesday.

Companies' assets frozen

Orders freezing the assets of six companies formerly controlled by Mr Keith Hunt, financier, have been made by a High Court judge sitting in private in London. Last week, Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, presented petitions for the compulsory winding-up of Mr Hunt's main company, Exchange Securities & Commodities, and several other companies. The companies have been put in the hands of the Official Receiver for liquidator, page 15

The Thatcher interview: the Prime Minister talks to Julian Haviland, our Political Editor

I take no responsibility for those who strike themselves out of jobs



On the fourth anniversary of the Conservatives' general election victory, Julian Haviland, our political editor, interviews the Prime Minister about her plans for the next Parliament, her attitude to rates reform, trade unions, privatization and foreign affairs.

What can you offer the electorate for another term, Prime Minister? You offered four years ago to "rebuild the economy", and there's not much sign of that, is there?

I think you underestimate what we offered. We offered a complete change in direction - from one in which the state became totally dominant in people's lives and penetrated almost every aspect - to a life where the state did do certain things, but without displacing personal responsibility.

I think we have altered the balance between the person and the state in a favourable way and in a way which is much more in keeping with the character of the people of Britain. So that really was a total change of philosophy, away from the all-embracing dominance of socialism to one in which the state has the framework of law, and defence and the rule of law, and the safety net in the social services, but where it still leaves people tremendous scope for their own enterprise, their own self-reliance, their own responsibility. Would you not expect to be judged though primarily on your economic management, and would you expect the electorate to think that the price, in bankruptcies, closures, unemployment, was worth paying? Are you vulnerable on economics?

No, I do not think I am. The recession has been deep and

worldwide. What we had to do was seen to be sound in financial terms, and sound in industrial terms... constraining expenditure, trying to get honest money, that is getting inflation down and not borrowing too much. But you are being attacked for, and you may in the end be judged by, the level of unemployment and your attitude towards it. Did you ever imagine it would be as high as it is now?

No, I did not. I don't think any of us knew how deep this world recession was going to be. One absolutely hates unemployment, but you don't create jobs just by talking. But Mr Michael Foot has attacked you for your "willing acceptance" of mass unemployment. Is that unjust?

Oh, totally unjust. Mr Foot and the Government of which he was a member, regarded unemployment - I think it was

said that "the high level of unemployment is evidence of the progress we are making", and what your opponents say, and what Sir Ian Gilmour has said, is that your Government is the first to have repudiated the notion that the Government is responsible for maintaining a "high and stable level of employment", to quote the 1944 White Paper. Is that true?

I know that White Paper very well indeed. So much of it is thoroughly true and sound still. Let me read you the last sentence of that foreword: "The success of the policy outlined in this paper will ultimately depend on the understanding and support of the community as a whole, and especially on the efforts of employers and workers in industry, for - this is the important part - without a rising standard of industrial efficiency we cannot achieve a high level of employment combined with a rising standard of living."

There's far more in this white paper that's on the side of my philosophy and my economic practice than anyone else's. Are you going to the Williamsburg economic summit whether or not there's a general election?

I expect to go to Williamsburg. Do you expect agreement there on some joint programme to get the world out of recession?

If you mean that there's going to be some new formula, no.



Mrs Thatcher: "I think we have altered the balance between the person and the state in a very favourable way." (Photograph: John Manning.)

Action on EEC budget

Do you expect to go to the Stuttgart summit in early June? I expect to carry on and go to the Stuttgart summit.

Do you think the electorate will be impressed by the spectacle of yet another row over the Common Market budget?

Impressed, no and I won't be impressed by it. I would be a little bit depressed by it, because I've had to fight that one before. But everyone there knows that, if they were in the position that Britain is, of being one of the two people who finance the Community - Germany being the other one - that they would fight in the same way as I shall. But the objective was a permanent settlement, and you're nowhere near that, are you?

The objective was really to get a different method of financing the community because looking ahead we foresaw that the present method would not work. But I think sometimes it's a weakness of democratic countries; you can point out to them all, including ourselves, things that will happen in the future if you don't take certain evasive action now, and you'll never believe it.

And so it is I think with the community. So long as there was money in the coffers, they never thought we'd come to a crunch when agricultural expenditure would get so great and there wasn't quite enough money to cover it.

Changing union law step by step

I wonder if your new trade union laws will prohibit strikes in public services - among water and power workers? nurses? the fire service?

Strikes were never prohibited in those services. There was an arrangement with certain public utilities, water and electricity, under which you could not break your contract of employment.

Of course that did not stop working to rule, which can be acutely embarrassing, nor did it stop people coming to the end of the contract of employment and then going on strike before negotiating a new one. So it was not as hard and fast as many people thought.

Are you set on compulsory ballots for trade union elections?

I think it's likely that that will find a place in the manifesto if it is not dealt with by a Bill before the House.

If you try to pass more Bills dealing with trade unions, when the unions are weakened by high unemployment, won't it

look like vindictiveness after the two Acts you've already passed?

No certainly not. There is a mass of trade union law, some of which we have set out to change for very good reasons, and more of which still needs changing. But we take it step by step.

But if it's wise to take it step by step, isn't it wise to see the effect of the first steps? You've already restricted picketing and secondary action, you've weakened the closed shop. Most of these provisions haven't yet been tested in the courts.

We've already been in four years, we've done two Acts. Those have been very good Acts. I believe they've played a part in changing attitudes, which is very important, and played a part in coming to a fairer balance between employers and employees, and between members of trade unions. In all the things we've done, we've had reason to believe that the vast majority of trade unionists are with us.

Falklands offer stands

Over the Falklands, are we mishandling the question of the relatives of the Argentine dead by appearing to deny them the chance to visit the graves?

We have not denied the relatives of the Argentine dead the opportunity to visit the graves. We asked the International Red Cross to organize and supervise such a visit. They were not able to do so and also

you know they washed their hands of Desistans.

They said the terms and conditions under which they wanted to make the visit would compromise their neutrality. Our offer of a visit of the close relatives of the Argentine dead to visit the Falklands under the auspices of the International Red Cross, and supervised by them, still stands.

Hope for rating reforms

Have you abandoned the idea of abolishing domestic rating?

The straight abolition would be very very difficult indeed, because the amount of money raised by rates has increased enormously.

You are talking about reforming rates now. Will you have positive proposals for reform in the manifesto?

I hope so. I expect so. Will reform mean that householders will pay less?

I think you must wait and see.

One proposal in 1974 was to take teachers' salaries off the rates. Will you do that?

The first thing you always have to look at in politics is "I know what I want to get away from, what am I going to put in its place?" It's no good just ditching something before you have decided precisely what you replace it with, or how you adjust the two things.

Are you tempted to abolish metropolitan county councils?

I'm tempted to do many many things, but I have to consider things with my colleagues and consider what is possible.

More state firms to be sold off

Is privatization still high on your agenda? Will you persist in trying to sell British Airways, the naval shipbuilders, the gas showrooms?

Privatization is indeed high, and it is working. It's absolutely ridiculous that so many industrial and commercial decisions should come up to a Cabinet and to a Prime Minister.

Would profitable coal mines be better off in private hands?

I certainly think there is scope for running the National Coal Board in such a way that the overheads are reduced and that the subsidy the taxpayer has to pay to the National Coal Board could be reduced.

By bringing private ownership to the profitable pits?

I am not going as far as that at the moment, in this interview, but I do hope to be able to show to people that privatization works.

It sounds like a possibility for the next manifesto?

More privatization sounds like a possibility. I think you're a bit ambitious when you start to talk about the National Coal Board in that same breath.

Will education vouchers come forward at last?

I think you must wait.

Balance in the Cabinet

To put through some of your plans, are you going to need to choose a different sort of Cabinet, free from doubters?

No, I am very happy with my present Cabinet. We work extremely well together.

You would not have a new Cabinet, as your opponents say, which would be markedly more right wing? You would try to keep balance of the left, right and centre of the party as now?

You always try to keep a balance. You have to take the whole party with you, but your greatest weapon is persuasion

and your powers of persuasion come from your conviction. But there are different sorts of Conservatives. Will people like Mr Whitelaw, Mr Pym, Mr Prior, Mr Walker, whom one could characterize by saying they believe in looking for the consensus of which you've talked with such contempt, be in your next Cabinet?

Consensus is a word which is not used in politics for very good reasons. We in my Cabinet have agreement, to go ahead, we don't need anything like consensus.

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Alfasud TI from \$5,750

Sprint from \$6,375

Giulietta from \$6,350

Alfetta from \$8,300

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Why? Because we're celebrating the fact that Alfa Romeo cars have recently broken 18 World Records for speed and endurance.

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So, why not join them and look up your local dealer in Yellow Pages, or ring Hotline 01-897 6958.

Then discover the real thrill of driving at a really thrilling price.

Alfa Romeo

CELEBRATING 18 WORLD RECORDS

Andropov's new offer on warheads provokes a qualified welcome from Bonn, London and Nato but big obstacles remain

Kohl waiting for more decisive move but proposes fresh dialogue

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Dr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, told the West German Parliament yesterday that he would go to Moscow on July 4 to meet Mr Yuri Andropov, and tell him Bonn was ready to continue a dialogue and, with good will, offer the Russians political, economic and scientific cooperation.

fulfil the treaties in letter and spirit, and Bonn was therefore still looking for an East German reduction in the minimum sum Western visitors were obliged to exchange. Dr Kohl also called Berlin a touchstone of East-West relations.



Policy outline: Chancellor Kohl explaining his strategy in the Bundestag yesterday.

British deterrent should not be included, Pym insists

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has once more rejected Soviet insistence on counting its strategic deterrent within the European nuclear balance, while welcoming the latest Russian move as a step in the right direction.

French nuclear weapons can in any way be involved in the disarmament negotiations in Geneva when they resume on May 17.

Hostages 'cross Tigré by mule'

Dublin (AFP) - The 10 aid workers taken hostage in Ethiopia last month by the Tigré People's Liberation Front are on their way by mule to the Sudanese border, it was reported here.

Arrest warrant for editor

Singapore - A Filipino judge has signed an arrest warrant for the Manila correspondent and the editor of the Hongkong-based Far Eastern Economic Review, David Watts writes.

Two jailed for robbing envoy

Cologne (Reuter) - Two West Germans who robbed a Soviet diplomat of about £4 and left him tied to a tree in a wood last winter were jailed here.

A decisive meeting for Shultz

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

After a day in which nine Israeli soldiers were wounded in occupied Lebanon, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, last night began a meeting with Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, expected to be decisive in determining whether he will be able to achieve his optimistic goal of securing an agreement by the weekend.



Voice of peace: Mr Shultz answering questions from reporters after his Beirut talks, flanked by Mr Elia Salem, Lebanese Foreign Minister (left) and Mr Chaffie Wazzan, the Prime Minister.

were to be reached before Mr Shultz is due to fly to Paris on Sunday.

After more than a week of hectic shuttle diplomacy, Mr Shultz's mission has now reached the point where some of the toughest outstanding issues dividing Israel and Lebanon will have to be faced.

The official told reporters that the Syrian moves were in direct contradiction of Lebanon's public claims that it was aiming to reassert its national sovereignty.

obtaining what he said were the latest Lebanese provisions for an agreement on foreign troop withdrawals, Katherine Donnan writes.

Five Poles beaten up in convent

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish Catholic church activists yesterday expressed their concern about a mysterious break-in into a Warsaw convent during which five members of the Frimite's Council for Assistance to the Interned were beaten up.

Mugabe is told: Cut corruption

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

More than 500 women marched through Harare yesterday to the office of Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, demonstrating against ministerial corruption and exploitation by black employers.

Connors sued for divorce

New York - Jimmy Connors, the Wimbledon and US Open tennis champion, and his wife Fatti have separated and are engaged in a tussle for custody of their son Brett, aged three.

Dentist dies

Strasbourg (AP) - An 80-year-old retired dentist, Szymon Goldmann, run down by a motorist crashing through a crowd of demonstrators, died in hospital early yesterday, police said.

Bilbao murders

Bilbao (AP) - The bullet-riddled bodies of two policemen and one of their wives were discovered in a garage here.

Premier ill

Vienna (Reuter) - Mr Lubomir Strougal, aged 58, the Czechoslovak Prime Minister, is in hospital for treatment, the Foreign Ministry disclosed in Prague.

Whitlam post

Mr Gough Whitlam, the former Australian Prime Minister, whose Labour Government was dismissed in the 1975 constitutional crisis, was appointed yesterday as Australia's representative at UNESCO in Paris, Reuter reports.

Luther birthday

Eisenach, East Germany (Reuter) - Representatives of churches from around the world joined East German Protestants here to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther, founder of the Reformation.

The last laugh

Lusaka (AFP) - A cabaret featuring Peter Maxwell, a British entertainer, has been ordered to be closed at a Lusaka hotel because of jokes in which he allegedly insulted President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

Nicaragua stems attack by rebel invaders

Managua (Reuter) - Nicaragua says its troops have blunted an invasion by 1,200 right-wing rebels backed by Honduran soldiers.

The Defence Ministry communique made no mention of the additional 1,000 right winners. If they have managed to cross the border it would bring to 4,200 the number of rebels alleged to have moved against the Nicaraguan border from Honduran bases in the last two months.

Reagan fury at ban on secret fund

Washington (Reuter) - The White House yesterday strongly condemned a Congressional vote to halt covert United States operations in Nicaragua, saying the decision seemed to acquiesce in Marxist terrorism in Central America.

Using some of the harshest language yet directed at Congress, it vowed to reverse the vote.

Fourth minister named by Egyptian court

The Court of Ethics, whose verdict on Mr Esmat Sadat, the half-brother of the late president led to the dismissal of two Cabinet ministers in March, named Dr Wahib Shindy, the Minister for Investment and International Cooperation yesterday in connection with another corruption trial, legal sources said.

The court said that, before he joined the government last September, Dr Shindy, at the time the managing director of the state-controlled Arab Investment Bank, approved a loan worth about £300,000 to Mr Tawfik Ardabay, a food importer accused of cheating the state of some £12m.

Pope to visit Canada

Ottawa (Reuter) - The Pope is to fly to Canada on September 9, next for a 10-day visit, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops said yesterday.

He said at his weekly general audience: "I wish to renew my profound participation with the suffering of the families who feel in their heart so sharp a thorn for the fate of their loved ones, at a moment when it seems that even the slight hope they still nourished has been extinguished."

Frozen embryo team defends methods

The head of the team which carried out the world's first successful in vitro fertilization using an embryo which had been frozen, said yesterday that he did not believe the procedure would result in more abnormal births.

Professor Carl Wood, head of the Monash University obstetrics and gynaecology departments, said that while his team did not know if the offspring would be normal or not, there was reassuring evidence.

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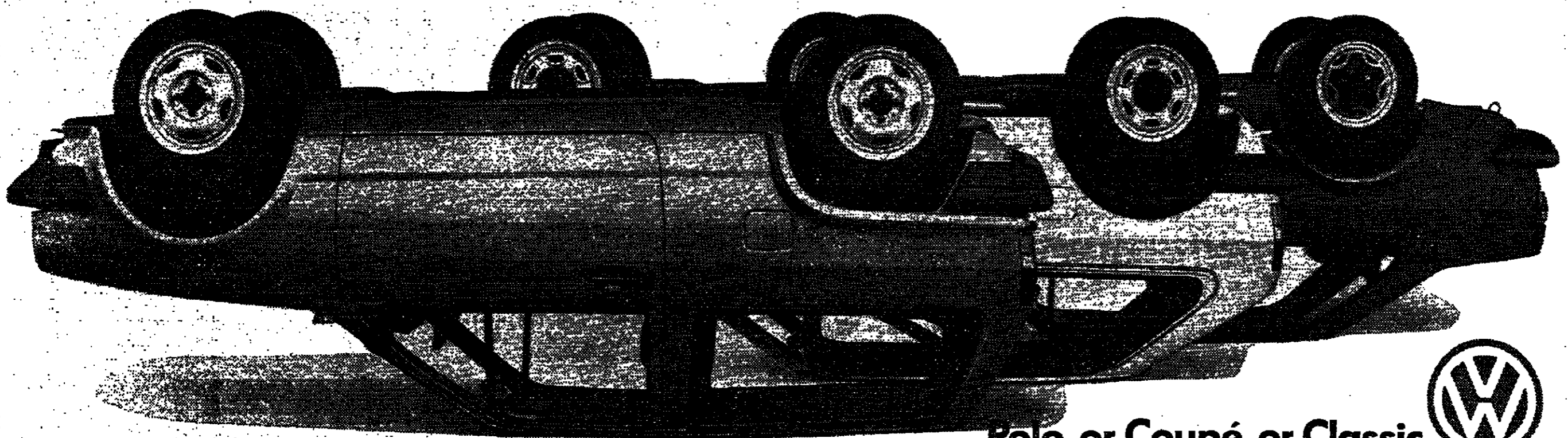
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Polo. It's a tough choice.

Faced with its record of durability, reliability and safety, the choice between other small cars and the Volkswagen Polo is easy. Faced with the alternatives of a square-backed Polo, the Classic with a boot, or the new Coupé, choosing between Polos is much tougher.



Polo, or Coupé, or Classic.



A Yank at Oxford Circus

MODERN TIMES

A sideways look at the British way of life

Last Sunday, Bob Fromer took one look at the soggy baseball pitch in Regent's Park and turned sadly away. A game of softball (same as baseball with a softer ball pitched under-arm) was out of the question. He and his fellow-players had been looking forward to playing and clobbering the Hyde Park softball team, an older and more established group to which they usually lose.

Bob Fromer is an American freelance audio-visual producer who now lives in Kington, Herefordshire. From April to August, when half of London is pouring into the Welsh Borders at the weekends, Bob is often driving about 150 miles in the opposite direction to play softball with his fellow-Americans in Regent's Park. He first played there in 1972, and by the late 1970s as many as 50 people would turn up to play on Sundays, on the three pitches appropriately situated behind the residence of the American Ambassador.

Numbers have since fallen, but the players still congregate after an afternoon's softball in Maxwell's Cafe in Hampstead. Here they serve a classic line in hamburgers, which can be washed down with every major brand of American beer. It is an architecturally haphazard place, because every time the management gets enough cash it bursts through another adjoining wall, and installs a few more tables. This gives the restaurant an atmosphere of easy-going, slap-happy success that appeals to its mainly American clientele. And, in a notice over the till, the staff are reminded that "a soda customer today may be a steak customer tomorrow."

The number of Americans in London has been reduced by the economic recession, but there are still a lot of them here. There's the businessman, built like a chest of drawers with blow-dried hair, snappy suit and an enormous college ring; the professional woman, slim and elegant, who runs in the morning and keeps her wheat-germ in her purse, the way Jane Fonda says we should; then there's the student, in jeans and running shoes with his teeth still behind scaffolding, because his parents know how important it is to have a good set of choppers and a sincere smile in professional life.

Most of them are birds of passage, here for only a year or so before returning to what they always call The States; but from their ranks are drawn those who decide to stay. This may be because they have got themselves into a meaningful relationship, or perhaps an optimum work situation, or perhaps even a positive environment for a balanced work/play interface. Whatever the reason, here they are, part of the band of American expatriates among whom there have been some very impressive names: James McNeil Whistler did for London what Van Gogh did for sunflowers, Harry Gordon Selfridge brought us our first department store, Nancy Astor blazed the trail for women in Parliament, and was frequently at loggerheads with Winston Churchill, who was brought to us in no small measure by Jennie Jerome...

Organizations such as the Democrats Abroad and the Republicans Abroad keep them in touch with the US political scene, and both these groups are campaigning hotly for a Congressman to represent their interests. Since many Americans resident in England still pay US taxes, they feel they have a right to representation (a right for which, ironically enough, their ancestors dumped a lot of tea into Boston Harbour and subsequently sent us packing just over 200 years ago). They are very aware of America's geographical and political isolation, and as inhabitants of Europe, they have a lot to say on the inflammatory topic of cruise missiles.

Because they speak the language, even if it's not quite the Queen's English, London's Americans do not have to rely on each other for company and support in the way that non-English speaking foreign communities do. Though they play softball together, and have been known to retreat into the *New York Times* or even McDonald's for a taste of home, they like to surround themselves with English people, and they have a natural talent for highlighting the local colour. In the presence of an American, a Brit's Britishness is thrown into relief. The occasion is given an international touch, and both parties can indulge in amusing speculations on the nature of America and Europe, à la Henry James. Once into this sort of conversation, it will not be long before the subject of Yankee commercialism crops up. This is America's original sin, and they talk about it the way we talk about the class system - deploring its injustices, and admitting that it seems too ingrained to uproot. One of the results of this of this commercialism is that you are expected to devote every moment of your waking day to furthering your career, just to keep up with your friends and colleagues with whom you discuss the appalling pressures of competition. There is rarely time in America to do the things they rave about in London, like taking a walk in the park or spending an evening at the theatre.

There was a time, not so long ago, when the British got very worked up over the Brain Drain. Every doctor and engineer trained in Britain seemed to be hotfooting it to the United States, where all the money, the technology and the opportunities were. The long-standing trickle of Americans into England was never so dramatic, but it is nice to know they're here, enjoying an old European culture in a city that has built up its own comfortable patina over hundreds of years.

They've got the knowhow, but we've still got the *savoir-faire*. Text and interviews by Artemis Cooper



SALAD FREAK

Andrea Tava
Los Angeles, California
Painter and print-maker

SOUL FOOD

Charles Angus
Washington DC
Dancer and Teacher

PIZZA AL GUSTO

Paul Gambaccini
New York, New York
BBC disc jockey

HOMINY GRITS

Alice Faye Eichelberger
Waco, Texas
Psychologist and physiotherapist

STEAK & BEANS

William Beaver
Grand Junction, Colorado
Executive, J Walter Thompson

Everything David Hockney went to L.A. for, I came to London to get away from. People say "Don't you miss the sunshine?" - but constant sunshine is boring, and I love to watch the seasons change. I came over here seven years ago and I love it. I like the neighbourhoods and the little shops. Culturally, London is the capital of a small country and a large empire. It's at the centre of everything, you can be in touch with it all and still remain quiet and private. I paint at home but I do my print-making in Wapping, where there's some very exciting work going on, although I feel the British art scene is stuck. It's too academic and clabby, it's a real struggle for young British artists, and there's so much less funding for them here than in say Germany or Japan. In L.A. art and architecture are designed to be seen from a car at 45 mph, because it's a car culture and people don't move unless they're in cars. Here you look up at buildings, or peer at paintings in gallery windows as you walk along, and you can stop and enjoy them.

I love going back to Washington, but after a bit I think, I want to go home. My home is where my work is. My big break was in London, when I staged and directed *Babbling Browns Sagar*, and things started to happen for me in England. In New York I would have been in a queue of hundreds of young black choreographers, but when I came here I was the only one. But London is very tough for black dancers - I can only think of five now working in major West End shows. Black people here seem less aware of their roots than they are in the States because they came to England by choice, wanting to assimilate themselves. American blacks were brought there by force, so they cling to their traditions and family structures. There is a danger of getting too laid back - it's so polite, and no one likes to raise their voice. Some things I don't mind picking up - my mother says I sound more English than the Queen, because I use words like 'cheers' and 'ta' and 'na'. But if I thought I was losing my get up and go, that's the day I'd leave.

I could have carried on being a radio executive in the States - I also could have cracked up. I hated being told the sort of music I had to play, and the sort of safe, "controversial" guests to get on the talk shows who could be guaranteed to get the listeners phoning in, but wouldn't say anything very profound. Working for the BBC I get to do what I want. I like living in London - it satisfies all my passions: good theatre, good Italian food, and a soft-ball team in summer. The music and entertainment business is all within walking distance, and there's a clubby feel in the way people run into each other all the time. The role of the DJ is more social here, too. I discovered this on one of our *Fun Days Out*, when Tony Blackburn and I were bouncing down a race-track on rubber balls. It was agony, but I looked up and saw all these people cheering - and I thought there must be more to this than I realized, if one can get this sort of crowd reaction just by bouncing along on a rubber ball.

I was a psychologist in Texas, and I came to London on a scholarship to train as a physio-therapist, with seven suitcases and two small boys. I love the parks and the changing seasons and being able to walk everywhere, but it was hard at first - I remember sitting on the steps of London University and crying, because I had just sat through two hours of lecture with a posh professor, and I hadn't understood a word he said. I work now with emotionally disturbed children, and they try to teach me how to say things like 'buy' and 'Tuesday' properly. London's my home now, and my kids love it. I could not live in the houses and wear the clothes that I have here in Texas. Material things are so important there that the children would suffer if I sent them to school in anything but Lacoste T-shirts and Levi jeans. Southerners are like the English in that they are very hospitable and out-going on the surface, and private inside. English men are so courtly. They woe you with flowers and cards.

London is a very exciting place visually - it's a treat to see so many parks and buildings so well taken care of. It's the tatty round the edges that bothers me, because it is unnecessary. For example, the council will renovate Victorian houses with great care and expense, and yet the lavas outside them aren't mown or swept. When you ask why you're told it's the council's job. I've been in England ten years now, and my wife is British. I don't feel like a stranger, although in my work in corporate communications I find being American particularly useful. I can leap class barriers. I once thought I'd move back to the States. I was barely off the plane, and the first words I heard were "move your f---ing back, mack". There's a general civility here that I find so important - though that too can go to extremes. I saw a lady on the tube poke a man in the eye with her umbrella, and his immediate reaction was "ooh - I'm frightfully sorry".

FLAVIA CORKSCREW'S GOOD FOOD GUIDE

FLAVIA IS AT HER LOCAL SHOW JUDGING THE HOME-MADE JAM.

ON THE RIGHT THERE IS PLUM JAM

The point of this jam is not gratification at tea-time, but to help develop a race of people with stainless steel false teeth!

It's an old recipe nearly all Stones and very likely to break your teeth.

It has a clearly defined protein order.

ON THE LEFT THERE IS RASPBERRY JAM

Actually... raspberry jam is, in fact, bramble jelly these days. Nor do we exclude gooseberries. Nor Kumquats. The main thing is to be thickly spread.

IN THE MIDDLE THERE IS GUINCE 'N' DAMSON COMBINED JAM

But these jams are empty! Where's the jam?

...Without using their recipes.

We specialise in blanc-mange. This is the last one we're making before we break the mould.

Exactly! Just what we want to know: how to get jam...

Cuckoos in sheep's clothing

MOREOVER... Miles Kingston

My mallbag has been flooded with letters about the authenticity or otherwise of birds which have featured in BBC films and world history generally. I am printing a few of the more trustworthy; many, I am afraid, look like fakes to me.

From Chestnut Donnelly

Sir, I was interested to read that the noted German war historian Hugh Trevor-Roper had been tracked down to Cambridge where he had adopted the new alias of Lord Dacre - a somewhat clumsy sobriquet for one who used to be so sharp. Now, I fear, his faculties are failing and he no longer seems able to distinguish between the genuine and the manufactured.

I myself have no doubts that the Hitler diaries are fake. In one of the extracts I have seen, Hitler writes "Spring, 1943, and I see in the London Times that they are again heralding the arrival of the first cuckoo. My God, these English live in a dream world."

It so happens that I was, at the time, ornithological adviser to *The Times* letter editor, and I well remember that we were forbidden to print letters during the War about the arrival of the cuckoo on the grounds that this might give away valuable knowledge about the annual climate to the Germans.

I remain

From David Irving

Sir, I became convinced that the Hitler diaries were genuine when I read the following passage: "Spring 1943: The weather is getting better and already the first Wasserzmann's partridge has arrived on its

ling migratory trek from the desolate marshlands of Turkey. A good sign!"

This particular bird was only identified by Klaus Wasserman in 1978 and has only, I believe, been mentioned in one small survey in *New England Bird Studies* Vol XXIII. This publication is not on sale in Europe. Therefore any East German forgery factory could not have known about it!

I have just realized that Hitler could not have known either. I am convinced these diaries are fake.

Yours faithfully

PS Not the David Irving, of course.

From Sinclair Roengen

Sir, I work in the BBC department at Bristol which dubs noises on to otherwise uninteresting films and I would like to draw to your attention an anachronism which takes place in real life. The starting, as you know, is a famous mimic and will imitate anything around him. But how do we explain the fact that starting is still to be heard imitating steam engines when there has not been a main line steam engine near Bristol for fifteen years?

Yours faithfully

From Mrs Elsie Penland-Glory

Sir, I would have thought the answer to the previous letter was quite obvious. When parents read stories to their children, they find it very hard to imitate train noises of the modern kind - diesel trains are hard enough, but electric ones are impossible. Therefore they go on doing steam noises. These

startlings, sir, are imitating parents imitating steam trains yours snugly

From Henry the Talking Avocet

Sir, I refer to a recent piece by whoever writes your editorials, in which the phrase occurs: "as likely as a bird doing a musical ball act".

I have been touring the music halls and clubs of this country since 1948, to enormous applause ("The funniest act seen in Colchester for many a month" - Essex Bird Studies Vol XXIII). I believe I am the

first bird in the world to perform with a human dummy on my knee, which is harder than it sounds because, as you know, avocets have no knees. On my first appearance in Bradford I was near despair because the dummy kept falling to the ground. But it had the audience in stitches and I have kept it in the act ever since.

I have not read the Hitler diaries, but I believe Lord Dacre once came up on stage to assist me with my popular "Flying Houdini" routine, in which I get out of ten rubber bands in mid-air. He was very helpful but somewhat maladroit.

yours awe

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 53)

ACROSS

1 Uncover (6)
2 Portray (6)
3 W.C. (3)
4 Weaving fibre (6)
5 Accours (6)
10 House cleaner (4)
11 Proper (8)
13 Disappear (6)
15 Sprightly (6)
17 Of dance (5)
20 Fink (4)
21 Egg (3)
22 Cowboy manoeuvre (6)
24 Turkish cap (3)
25 Still (6)
26 Native of Delhi (6)

DOWN

2 Below (5)
3 Umpire (7)
4 Applause (7)
5 Classic architecture (5)
6 Lecture (5)
7 Lap (7)

SOLUTION TO No 52

ACROSS: 1 Fester 4 Fitman 7 Code 8 Normally 9 Escapism 12 Oval 15 Traver 16 Snance 17 DOE 19 Telex 24 Regatta 25 Fool 26 Ranzel 27 Yeasty

DOWN: 1 Fiat 2 Siderwise 3 Run up 4 Paris 5 Toad 6 Allow 10 Alert 11 Motor 12 Obnoxious 13 Ne'er 14 Stud 18 Obese 20 Extol 21 Essay

14 Boldness (7) 18 Shelf (5)
15 Bath towel (7) 19 Burglary (5)
16 Not called (7) 21 Mantis (5)

مكتبة من رايصل

BOOKS

Period rich in disorder

The Squandered Peace

By John Vaizey

(Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95)

In the second news section of the New York Times every Sunday there is a valuable feature called "Follow-up of the news" in which interesting stories that have leaked away unreported in previous issues are continued and brought up to date. Independently of its other uses John Vaizey's The Squandered Peace can serve, on its much larger scale, a comparable purpose for all those who feel they may have missed something on the turbulent world scene during the post-war years.

The Americans have a lot of grand ideas, which are not all talk, but at a pinch get suppressed by crude economic self-interest. The impenetrably chilly French did some silly things with their empire, but more parochially they kept their heads down to very great advantage. Delusions of imperial grandeur have conspired with a few secret allies to turn us into the Sick Man of Europe. By remaining seated until the plane came to a complete halt we have succeeded in muddying the connection. This sorry set of attitudes proves to be a highly servicable instrument of interpretation.

More generally, two larger themes wind through the book. The first is the failure to secure a settlement in Europe with the Russians that would be more peacefully inclined than the current nose-to-nose confrontation at the Berlin Wall. The state of affairs John Vaizey seems mainly to have in mind in talking of the peace as squandered. That would have involved a neutral, unified Germany. He recognises the danger of Finlandization: a neutral Germany could turn out to be Russia's Belgium. But he is less concerned with the fear felt by everyone in this part of the world, west European or Russian, especially if they are over 40, of a reunited Germany.



She may look as romantic as a Victorian painting, but she is a real fisher-girl baiting lines at Runswick Bay, near Whitby, c 1880, from A Hundred Years Ago by Colin Ford and Brian Harrison (Allen Lane, £25).

The watch that never ends

Siegfried Sassoon Diaries 1915-1918

Edited by Rupert Hart-Davis (Faber, £10.50)

The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon

Edited by Rupert Hart-Davis (Faber, £5.25)

the voice of Siegfried Sassoon that sounds the most bitterly, the most savagely to us across the years. He's a cheery old card', granted Hardy to Jack. As they slugged up to Arras with rifle and pack. But he did for them both by his plan of attack.

from the immediate, raw daily entries. (Compare for example the long entry of 25 May 1916 describing the death of Michael O'Brien in the mine craters with "The Raid" chapter in the Memoirs.)

Yet the voice belongs to a tall, reclusive, foxhunting man, who often seemed so remote from his peers, and from his troops, "the cheery, reckless sportsman - out for a dip at the Bosches" (his own ironic description); the "Mad Jack" of the trenches, who read Hardy and Tolstoy between engagements, and got up early to ride behind the Lines or make nature notes. How did such a voice emerge from such a man?

This is the central drama of these Diaries 1915-1918, which read in conjunction with the reissued War Poems (133 of them, 14 previously unpublished, nearly all now datable to a specific month of the War, if not an actual day) reveal a major writer being slowly battered into the full, terrible consciousness of what war means, and will always mean.

What is the tone of that? Among all the poets of the First World War - young Charles Sorley, Brooke, Nichols, Thomas, Graves, that Olympian tower of pity, Owen - it is

But Sassoon's watches never ended; can never end.

Richard Holmes

Species are ringingly identified as such. The UN not only serves as a handy diplomatic meeting place, it provides well-paid jobs for seemingly numberless Scandinavians and, subsequently, Indians. The war was fought far too strenuously by the British both materially and economically. British operations at Suez were "quite extraordinary military inefficiency". President Kennedy's "lust for a laurel wreath led him into thoughtless pugnacity". The lack of defensive upholstery from John Vaizey's prose is reminiscent of Bertrand Russell's, even if delivered from the other end of the ideological pitch. "On Sassoon's moves", he writes, "were originally fanned by the Ameri-

ans who thought they saw a chance for new profitable deals for their own oil companies, but when they saw the reality of Mossadeq they changed their tune and arranged for him to be overthrown and for the Shah to be reinstated."

The other is the failure of the West to challenge the Communists, to do more than react to them defensively with varying degrees of success. In this, I think, he is inclined to underestimate our defensive successes. The Russians have no trustworthy allies to speak of in the Third World; we have no really dangerous enemies there, we can let them stew in the juice of their own rhetoric. Furthermore there is a contradiction between the liberal constitutionalism and economic freedom whose widespread rejection he finds depressing, and the idea of more or less forcible "propagation".

Anthony Quinton

The fall of a dynasty

The Last Prince of Wales

By David Stephenson

(Barracuda Books, £7.50)

After 700 years failure still clings to the Prince of Wales, muffling the tragedy. One Nationalist even refused to attend the anniversary ceremony last December on the grounds that a head of state who had contrived to get himself mugged was not worth his attention.

ancestral lands. In the second, five years later, he lost his life. It is the second war which underlined the failure for historians. The accepted version has been that he did not even start it, being dragged into it like a sleep-walker by his brother David, that master of the triple-cross. He was killed mysteriously, not at the head of his troops, but in a dust encounter with a small party of Englishmen.

And when it was over there was a feeling among the bards that there had been an end of things. A dynasty that had had its origins in Roman provincial administration had fallen.

Byron Rogers

Llywelyn was the first and the last Welsh Prince of Wales to be recognized by the English Crown. He had everything, and then lost it in two wars, in the first of which, in 1277, his power shrank to the rump of his

The last war, he maintains,

Fiction

Odd consequences and cultural baggage

Jumping the Queue

By Mary Wesley (Macmillan, £7.95)

The Poliports, Tom and Matilda, have got it all worked out. Fit and fitfully now, they know they will always be. So they make a decision: when hardening arteries become a bore, they will preempt the Great Reaper by going away with themselves in the manner in which they have conducted their lives - painlessly, tidily and together. Then Tom spoils everything by dropping dead. Matilda is heartbroken, but also reproachful. She is far from finished, in fact just getting nicely into her prime. But life without Tom is bloody, besides, the cat and dog are both dead. Only Gus the gander and her rakish, rarely present son Clapd proceed Matilda with any incentive to carry on. It isn't enough, so she puts her affairs in order, makes up a picnic, and heads for her favourite beach.

venality which rises from every page. Elia Kazan's new book smells almost sweet. Although a novel in its own right, The Anatolian (Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95) is a continuation of the story of Stavros Topozou, the hero of Mr Kazan's earlier America America. The year is now 1909, the place still New York, and the ingratitude of his family, coupled with his failure to rise fast enough in the oriental rug business, drives Stavros into the arms of Althea Perry, a Venian girl suffering from a serious case of nostalgia for the boue. Althea is pretty poisonous, but then so is everyone else in the book, and the way they treat each other makes The Carpetbaggers read like a Victorian guide to social etiquette. This is a compelling rather than an edifying tale, told with brutal directness and the assurance of a born storyteller.

rides herd in the wide empty spaces of the human heart. Geddit? Perhaps not. At least, you might get the general drift - the blurrings of reality and fiction, the Americana and the dandy slumming ("mimesis rides herd") - but will you do the joke and, even if you do, will you have the patience? For Duluth is above all clumsy. Like the greenest of novices, Vidal pours in the lot - whiplash prose, Firbank dialogue, Biff fantasy with Douglas Adams overtones, and weird sex. Then, like the most fastidious miniaturist, he shoehorns it all into a tight little tale of urban terrorism, city hall corruption, outer space invasion, and wealthy backstabbing. It sounds like a richly-flavoured riot. It isn't.

John Nicholson

Duluth

By Gore Vidal (Heinemann, £7.95)

Edna Herridge, who died on page 8, has just finished shooting (on page 168) a wedding scene for a TV soap opera for Universal in Hollywood. Removing her make-up in the trailer afterwards her eye is caught by a scene on the television from the soap Duluth, not to be confused with "Duluth", the one she has just been shooting. The scene disturbs her. She streaks off in her Budget rented car only to smash into the Santini moving van which is coming round the mountain. Dead again, but free now to appear in countless mini-series, soaps and features. "Whenever there is a war and giving, mature and loving, there we shall find her just so long - and no longer - as mimesis

Duluth is an extraordinarily literal novel. The apparent energy of the imagination is, in fact, a kind of dullness, an unwillingness to mould the inspiration into something which carries it all one step further, to some kind of aesthetic higher ground. Every so often a joke works but only by chance verbal felicity, not by pointing the way to any better fictional resolution. It seems such a waste. The feeling is that by distillation rather than accretion Vidal could do it so much better, so much more cleanly. But perhaps conviction and cleanliness are not in the lines like the one about Roland Barthes being a French CIA mole or in Hubert Humphrey's walk-on part. There the cultural baggage takes on an instant, ephemeral quality as if Vidal should really be a high quality cartoonist, planting familiar faces on metamorphosed bodies which are obliged to lurch forever through significant landscapes.

Bryan Appleyard

Goss for literati

The Lyttelton Hart-Davis Letters

Correspondence of George Lyttelton and Rupert Hart-Davis Volume Five (John Murray, £12.50)

My dear George, How many million words have we by now exchanged? Little did we imagine in 1926, when you started the first English course at Eton, and I fell under the spell of your infectious enthusiasm for literature, that our letters would end up being published in volumes that seem to stretch out to crack of doom.

I am alarmed at being called as a defence witness at her trial. We read some good books, didn't we, though I regret to have to tell you that I still have not got round to reading How Green We ate some good meals, and enjoyed some gentle gossip about everybody from John Sparrow to Bernard Levin.

I do seem to go on a bit about my monstrous labours with the proofs of Oscar Wilde's Letters; and you, rather touchingly, need to be constantly reassured that you are not being an epistolary bore. We give posterity our views on everything from Jonathan Cape to Martin Chuzzlewit. Bully for posterity, as one of the young men said the other day. But I sometimes think that they must lead jejune lives these days to find so much nourishment in our private letters when they could be writing their own letters, reading their own books, and leading their own lives. I dare say that you and I are as unfashionable as dinosaurs or Dr Johnson. But I don't mind; well, not about the latter, anyway. And now, what do you think about H.K.M. ...

Philip Howard

Science Fiction

Towards Apocalypse

Graffiti

By Peter Van Greenaway

(Gollancz, £6.95)

The fog is pulverized people. For the Bombs have fallen on Britain (wasn't it something to do with Poland?). The survivors are bawling through that smudging mist, to lay enraged siege to where the Establishment has established itself below ground, in V.I.P. splendour that it prepared for years before. The hero-narrator, Alexander Selkirk, travels across country writing his experiences on whatever brickwork has managed to remain upright - the writing on the walls.

The Compass Rose, by Ursula Le Guin (Gollancz, £7.95). Pastiche seeps into all these stories, waterlogging some, but juicing others with fresh insights. A send-up of "Star Trek" freezes chuckles, but the smile raises over with "The New Atlantis" as totalitarianism refrigerates free will. I still prefer her longer, more developed pieces, though.

Mr Van Greenaway's rip-toothed savagery runs not just on a Greenham tract, but savages all the attitudes that have slouched to Apocalypse along Coronation and Downing Streets - both aspects of manipulated illusion. It is terrifyingly persuasive and its mix of adventure and nightmare is formidable. Buchan raised to the power of Kafka.

The Proud Robot, by Henry Kuttner (Hamlyn, £1.50). A great SF matter at play. The adventures of his loony scientist, Galloway Gallegher, thinker, drinker and all-round stinker. Good fun from a writer who died too young.

A Secret History Of Time To Come by Robie Macauley (Corgi, £1.95). This one set in an America now given over to a wild Nature, through which Kincaid rides like a parody-pioneer looking for a new frontier unattainable because mankind is once more setting limits on the future. Within its context, almost lyrical.

Far From Home, by Walter Tevis (Gollancz, £6.95). An anonymous novella and some shorter stories from the author who wrote "The Man Who Fell To Earth": still a sense of displacement, of a loss to be endured. The poetic imprints of a fine writer's trail.

The Unreasoning Mask, by Philip José Farmer (Granada, £1.95). Beware the Bolg! Great slant-bang encounter with the god of a planet that brings about our hero's reformation as well as taking him into weird adventures. Mr Farmer's stylings of the physical to the mythic is quite extraordinary in SF terms.

Smurise On Mercury, by Robert Silverberg (Gollancz, £7.95). Mother Hubbard was, in fact, an experimenter to bring on the clones... Quirky, very, very readable compilation by one of the genre's superior talentiers.

Tom Hutchinson

NED SHERRIN A Small Thing Like An Earthquake. The funniest autobiography I have read in a long time. Wonderfully zesty... detailed, racy, witty... vivid... valuable... anything but lightweight! Michael Billington, GUARDIAN. The best show business autobiography I have read since Miss Hart's Act One. Peter Noble, SCREEN INTERNATIONAL. ON SALE NOW

DEFT AT HIGH-WIRE SUSPENSE WITH THE GRITTY TONE OF A LE CARRÉ. BILL GRANGER SCHISM A MISSIONARY PRIEST, LONG THOUGHT DEAD, TURNS UP AFTER TWENTY YEARS AT THE US EMBASSY IN BANGKOK. Leo Tunny has information in his secret diary wanted not only by the CIA and KGB but also by the Vatican's network of 'holy spies'. This is a brilliantly crafted thriller by a talented and original novelist. SCHISM Bill Granger £1.95

WALTER LORD Author of A Night to Remember THE MIRACLE OF DUNKIRK 'Out of the beaches into a legend... Walter Lord, a master narrator, pulls it all together from the British, French and German viewpoints' - Yorkshire Post £8.95 Allen Lane

FOYLES ART GALLERY M. E. HURRELL Pictures Of Bridges CHARCOAL DRAWINGS OF THAMES BRIDGES 10-6 daily until 25 May 113-119 Charing Cross Road London, W.C.2

WALTER LORD Author of A Night to Remember THE MIRACLE OF DUNKIRK 'Out of the beaches into a legend... Walter Lord, a master narrator, pulls it all together from the British, French and German viewpoints' - Yorkshire Post £8.95 Allen Lane

THE TIMES DIARY

When in Rome...

That Kenneth Macmillan is to direct Jill Bennett in Strindberg's sadly neglected Dance of Death at the Royal Exchange, Manchester...

Just a pale green

This week's newsletter of the ecological pressure group, Green Alliance, has a front-page piece by Tom Burke...

According to Faulxhall's advertisements, the Nova is 'deceptively large'. Since it looks quite little I suppose it must be terribly cramped inside.

End of an epoch

Giuseppe Sinopoli, who conducts the hugely successful Manon Lescaut at Covent Garden, has newly abandoned composition...



Of course I've nothing to declare. I don't work here.

Save fffs!

Robin Swales, of Polyplus Laminates, tells me the response to his new Green Piece movement to save the pound note has been overwhelming...

Jam on it

Prizes of a Tiffany trophy, \$2,500 and a Carnegie Hall debut were not the biggest for saxophonist John Harle when he won the Concert Artists Guild Amcon award in New York...

The GLC is advertising for two information officers required as part of its plans for regenerating industry and employment within London.

Sinking feeling

The Inland Waterways Association's press conference today to announce National Waterways Fortnight was cancelled for lack of interest.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Anthony Jolliffe, is being steeped in sherry. The producers presented him with 50 dozen bottles of specially blended amontillado yesterday...

When I became Home Secretary in 1979 I set myself four objectives in prison policy. First, to open up the prisons to the media and so stimulate public interest and debate...

Second, to obtain the money necessary for a substantial programme of new prison building and for improving and maintaining existing prisons.

Finally, to encourage a more economical use of our prisons by promoting and extending non-custodial sentences and by emphasizing the value of shorter sentences in appropriate cases for non-violent offenders.

At a time of rising crime, I had no illusions about the daunting nature of the task. I also appreciated that greater public debate would certainly lead to criticism.

Here I want to carry the debate forward by posing the basic dilemma of overcrowding. I consider it essential to do this because many of the arguments, and indeed the criticisms put forward, simply do not face up to the gravity of the problem.

Much has been achieved in the last four years. I immediately accepted the May Committee's recommendations on pay, and I have also implemented or am implementing many of the other recommendations on matters such as departmental organization, industrial relations and training.

Capital expenditure is now almost double what it was in cash terms in 1979-80. Four new prisons are under construction and six more are at various stages of design and planning.

The arguments, legal and ethical, over the Voluntary Euthanasia Society and its activities will not end with the court case recently concluded in which Mr Justice Woolf shed floods of darkness on the questions raised.

I must first draw attention to the title of the society's do-it-yourself suicide manual; it is called A Guide to Self-Deliverance. This rich and striking example of Newspeak suggests that the society's leaders are by no means so sure of themselves as they would like to think.

But if there are rigid and inescapable safeguards in any such proposals, what untoward consequences can there be? In the answer to that lies one of the most terrible truths about mankind.

Miss Tindall, in her article, quoted a remark made by one of the counsel in the legal proceedings, presumably counsel for the defendants: he spoke of 'the sovereign, unalienable and absolute right to die'.

But Tobago perceives itself largely as a client of Trinidad rather than an equal partner. Its affairs, its development, its finances, are still effectively controlled in the Trinidad capital, Port of Spain.

Relations between the House of Assembly and the central government in Port of Spain are going through another of their periodic crises. The Assembly's chairman, Mr N. R. Robinson, who claims that the government has failed to set up the required funding for the sugar and effectively controlled its economy, put a stop to that; and, after weeks of wondering what to do, the British lacked it on to Trinidad as a ward island in 1899.

But Tobago perceives itself largely as a client of Trinidad rather than an equal partner. Its affairs, its development, its finances, are still effectively controlled in the Trinidad capital, Port of Spain.

The Home Secretary replies to his critics

Prisons: no easy way out

by William Whitelaw

compared with 15,700 in 1979, an increase of 15 per cent.

Prisons must provide places for all those whom judges and magistrates decide should be sent there. I do not believe that the criminal justice system would have the confidence of law-abiding citizens if the executive were regularly to override judicial decisions as a means of escaping from difficulties.

There is no certainty that government action, such as executive release, would have a lasting effect on the prison population since courts might adjust their sentences to the effective level they considered appropriate.

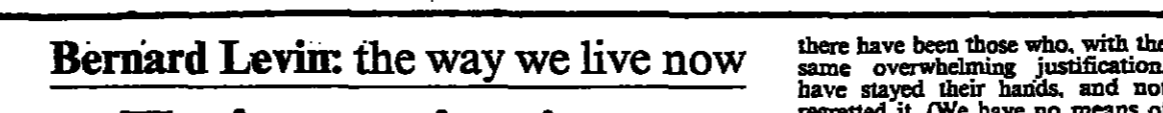
So there will always be uncertainties about the future levels for which prison accommodation is needed. There are limits to the accuracy with which you can project the future from past trends.

On the one hand, the Government must provide more prison places through a continuous programme for new prisons and also improvement and maintenance programmes for existing prisons.

We are not suggesting luxury in the prisons. We must, however, keep up the programme of improvement until there is adequate accommodation in tolerable conditions throughout the prison system.

This programme will require considerable resources, but so would any other. Those who think that good prison conditions can be achieved simply by reducing the prison population must face certain facts.

Wandsworth prison, London: three to a cell, and the overflow in police cells



Wandsworth prison, London: three to a cell, and the overflow in police cells

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Exit, pointing the way to the unthinkable

themselves (the survivor of a suicide pact was sometimes prosecuted), which was anything but absurd in view of the danger that, for instance, elderly and inconvenient relatives might be steered, not altogether with their approval, in a direction from which they would not return.

At this point it must be said that the Voluntary Euthanasia Society certainly does not need me to draw to its attention the dangers of which I have given one example: it is fully cognisant of them, and has proposed practical ways to minimize them.

But if there are rigid and inescapable safeguards in any such proposals, what untoward consequences can there be? In the answer to that lies one of the most terrible truths about mankind. Once we legalize assisted suicide we have altered, significantly and irrevocably, the standpoint from which we observe such matters, and once we have done that, things which were previously quite unthinkable move into an area in which it is possible to think them.

Above the surf, a rumble of UDI

Tobago is the Caribbean island which Daniel Defoe is supposed to have had in mind when he wrote Robinson Crusoe. It is where Michael Heseltine was naming himself when appointed Defence Secretary.

Relations between the House of Assembly and the central government in Port of Spain are going through another of their periodic crises. The Assembly's chairman, Mr N. R. Robinson, who claims that the government has failed to set up the required funding for the sugar and effectively controlled its economy, put a stop to that; and, after weeks of wondering what to do, the British lacked it on to Trinidad as a ward island in 1899.

their advocacy, which would liberate it to any extent whatsoever. All this, however, concerns the social and legal aspects of suicide, and these, though important, do not constitute the essence of the real question, which is: was Hamlet right when he said that the Almighty had fixed his canon 'against self-slaughter'?

It should be noted first that almost all of the great religions set their face against suicide; for Roman Catholics it is a sin even to contemplate it (Dante puts the suicides in the seventh circle of Hell). Nor is it difficult to see why this should be so; all religions teach, in one way or another, that our lives are not ours but God's, and may not therefore be thrown away.

Here we must tread carefully. I suppose most people have known suicides; a surprisingly large number have contemplated taking their own lives. Who are we to judge, say, those who are suffering from some incurable and agonizing disease, or who face some other insupportable misery, or who anticipate the inevitable by their own hand? Well, of course I do not judge them, in the sense of condemning or censuring them; but it is impossible to say that they may be mistaken in their belief that they have that 'sovereign, unalienable and absolute right'.

There have been those who, with the same overwhelming justification, have stayed their hands, and not Monsignor Bruce Kent's obligations as a priest and his function as a leader of CND. The Cardinal is accused of capitulating to political pressure. Since he has denied that the Government put any pressure on him, the charge presumably means that he has allowed himself to hear the voices of lay Catholics who (with consciences as good as those of CND Catholics) disagree with CND, and that he has decided that CND's activities are too politically controversial for a priest to lead it.

As to my latest book I pored, enjoying it immensely. I suddenly exclaimed 'Good Lord!' And griped the volume tensely. 'Golly!' I cried, I writhed in pain. 'They've done it on me once again!' And furrows creased my brow. 'I'd written (which I thought quite good) 'Ruth, ripening into womanhood. Was now a girl who knocked men flat And frequently got whistled at.' And some vile, careless, casual gook Had spoiled the best thing in the book By printing 'not'.

Ronald Butt

No, CND simply isn't gospel

When Mr Michael Heseltine drew public attention to the predominantly socialist and communist connections of the leading figures in CND he was accused of smearing it. The principal complaint was, presumably, that by naming only left-wing figures, he implied that CND is itself a left-wing organization when it claims to be something wider.

Alternatively, the complaint could relate more to the well-meaning rank-and-file members of CND who, though they may predominantly read The Guardian and would never dream of voting Conservative, none the less regard themselves as without formal political affiliation.

Outrage has been caused among CND sympathisers by Cardinal Hume's daring to raise the question of a possible conflict between Monsignor Bruce Kent's obligations as a priest and his function as a leader of CND.

The Cardinal's analysis of the conflict of loyalties has virtually been substantiated by Mgr Kent himself, who has observed not only that it is right for priests to be involved in issues like nuclear disarmament, but that if the church was not a participant 'then I don't think it's the right church for me'.

He believes that what he thinks right to fulfil his particular cause of unilateral nuclear disarmament is more important than the ability of priests and ministers to stand together outside particular political, and inevitably fallible schemes for stopping nuclear war.

The case against the politicized clerics of CND is not that they believe (as any individual might) that CND tactics are good for peace but that they invest their particular campaign with the quality of an ultimate moral imperative, though other Christians believe that it adds to the risk of war.

A sentence in a leading article in The Times on April 27 described Mgr Kent as the Canon Dick Sheppard of today. He is not and

neither is the Reverend Paul Oestreicher, and the CND is nothing like Dick Sheppard's Peace Pledge Union.

Dick Sheppard was one of the most admired and publicly loved men of his time. The Archbishop of Canterbury acknowledged him, when he died, as 'almost a son.' He was a great preacher who, as Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, filled his church by preaching an evangelical Christianity much wider and larger than his pacifism.

His message of peace reflected the it-must-never-happen-again mood after a war that was no more than 10 to 15 years away at the height of his fame. Though there were politicians in the PPU, it was not a political organization as CND is. Naively, Sheppard wrote to Hitler, asking to reach pacifism in Germany.

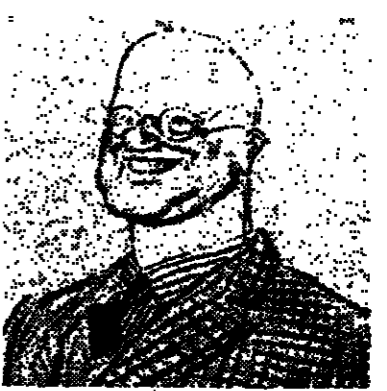
It was a noble fantasy which did some harm by contributing to the general reluctance to face the danger that war could happen again. Of course, the PPU included politicians. But it was fundamentally a religious (even for its non-Christians) rather than a political movement.

These are no more than political schemes that have nothing to do with Christian pacifism but merely concern whether peace is made more or less likely by renouncing nuclear defence. It is a policy with nothing to say about the relative moral justification (if any) of Dresden versus Hiroshima.

Whether you fight to defend yourself, your wife, your child or your neighbour is an ultimate religious question. How best to avoid war is political calculation (though it must be taken in good faith), and any CND priest who claims more than that for his activities cannot, surely, understand what he is doing.

P. G. Wodehouse Printer's Error

Jeeves and Bertie Wooster will be chuckled over while anyone reads a novel. But P. G. Wodehouse had another literary gift - as a writer of comic verse. This poem, from a collection published in the 1960s, demonstrates that there is nothing new in the very occasional mipsrint



As o'er my latest book I pored, Enjoying it immensely, I suddenly exclaimed 'Good Lord!' And griped the volume tensely. 'Golly!' I cried, I writhed in pain. 'They've done it on me once again!' And furrows creased my brow. 'I'd written (which I thought quite good) 'Ruth, ripening into womanhood. Was now a girl who knocked men flat And frequently got whistled at.' And some vile, careless, casual gook Had spoiled the best thing in the book By printing 'not'.

Prepare, 'I said, 'to meet your God Or, as you'd say, your Goo or Bod Or possibly your Gov.' A few weeks later into court I came to stand my trial. The Judge was quite a decent sort. He said, 'Well, rocky, I'll be passing sentence in a jiff. And so, my poor unhappy stiff, If you have anything to say, Now is the moment. Fire away. You have?' I said, 'And how! Me lud, the facts I don't dispute. I did, I own it freely, shoot. This printer through the collar stud. What else could I have done, me lud? He's printed 'not'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

ONE INCH AT A TIME

It is good that the latest Soviet offer in the disarmament negotiations has been welcomed in Washington, albeit cautiously, as a sign of progress. The proposal to negotiate an agreement which would achieve an approximate equality both as regards medium-range delivery vehicles - missiles and aircraft - and in the number of warheads carried by them, goes some way towards meeting Western objections about the triple-warhead SS-20 missile. Clearly any proposal from the USSR which might break the stalemate at the Geneva talks must be fully discussed by NATO, and no opportunity for balanced reductions should be lost from an excess of suspicion.

Yet the NATO allies have been adamant in insisting that the British and French deterrents, being chiefly long-range strategic weapons, cannot be included in the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, nor can they be considered in any way equivalent to the Soviet intermediate-range SS-20 missiles. Both the French Foreign Minister, Claude Cheysson and the British Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office Malcolm Rifkind, made this point very strongly during their recent visits to Moscow.

proposal of an "interim option" which would reduce the number of new US missiles to be deployed in Western Europe, provided the USSR agreed to cut SS-20 missiles in return. Soviet spokesmen have denounced bitterly the United States for not paying sufficient attention to earlier statements about arms control made by Yuri Andropov directly to the countries of the West.

APATHY AT THE PARISH PUMP

It makes a difference whose colours fly from the town hall flagstaff. In some areas the quality of local administration is immediately apparent; in the flowerbeds along the boulevards, the absence of planning blight, a palpable sense of civic pride. Good local government does not flow from the closeness of a council's connections with Central Office or Transport House.

exquisite pleasure of spending other people's money. In almost every one of the financial changes made by the present government since it introduced its first local government Bill in the autumn of 1979, a vital piece of machinery has been the willingness of electors to turn the rascals out - if councillors were "over-spending" or found wanting according to the new scales of evaluation introduced along with the block grants and comparative costings with which the Department of Environment has recently been preoccupied. Local electors now know volumes about the comparative cost performance of their town halls and the achievement of value for money by their refuse collectors, planners, bus drivers, librarians and road-menders.

"There is little support in all this (data) for a theory of local government that is based on the notion of the self-governing community, limited to an area that can encompass the local loyalty of its population." The judgement is harsh, but its validity was reinforced in the 1970s by a reorganization of boundaries and functions which has further increased the distance, geographical and psychological, between the people and their local governors.

THE MERGER HURDLE

The reluctance of Sotheby's the auctioneers to sell itself to the highest bidder - in this case to self-made New York based financiers with no background in, or experience of, the art market - reflects the dilemma of the Government when they seek to implement a coherent and logical merger policy. It is the conflict of head and heart, of belief in free markets and their tendency to regulate things over time in the best way for society as a whole, and the desire that things British should remain British and be helped to do so.

mergers should be examined, including competition, regional policy and maintenance of exports, then added that references could also be made and decisions reached with regard to the "public interest." So in this respect Lord Cockfield makes a fair point when he says that the Sotheby's battle has aroused the public imagination. It does not follow, however, that the public interest would be served if the bid were subject to closer official examination and in this case there is certainly no evidence that it would.

whether it has any implications for prices, market share, or competition. In short the Commission is being used to frustrate the free workings of the market place rather than to counter those occasions when market power is abused.

Snag in portable pensions plan

From Lord Byers
Sir, Ignoring the fact that 0 behaves differently from other numbers can lead to some elementary mistakes in arithmetic. This is equally true of the arithmetic of pensions.

It is unfortunate that the recent paper by the Centre for Policy Studies on the subject of pension rights for job-changers has been greeted by some as the answer to the problem, since the paper falls into just this mistake. A central point of the paper's argument is that younger members should have not only their contributions but also their employer's contribution removed from a final salary pension scheme and invested in a personal annuity.

Many people who work in pensions would like to see more done for the early leaver, but real progress demands a greater awareness of the position and the greater awareness of the fact that any real improvement has a real price tag attached.

A tax on energy

From Professor Ian Fells
Sir, The news that the European Commission is to propose a tax on energy consumption within the EEC is welcome. Some years ago I suggested that an energy-added tax (EAT) was to be preferred to VAT as it had the advantage of being quantifiable; those articles that had consumed large amounts of fuel in their manufacture would have been taxed most heavily. I made the suggestion to show that imaginative taxation could be used to encourage energy conservation.

A very simple example at the domestic level would be to make identifiable energy-saving expenditure on insulation, double glazing or temperature instrumenting tax-deductible. The EEC hope, of course, to raise money from an energy tax but additional energy conservation benefits could accrue. The tax on petrol is an example of a revenue-earning tax which has also encouraged the development of new, more efficient car engines.

Service anomaly

From Mr B. R. Carron
Sir, I would like to lend my support to Mr Jack Ashley's article (April 20) relating to servicemen being prevented from suing the Crown or another serviceman for negligence. This causes considerable hardship to many families.

Keeping the law within bounds

From Mr S. C. Silk, QC, MP for Southwark Dulwich (Labour)
Sir, In your leader, "The wrong courts" (April 30) you contrast the decision of Woolf J. to refuse relief to the Attorney General in his civil action to stop the publication of *A Guide to Self-Deliverance* with the decision of the Court of Appeal to give injunctive relief to local authorities against unlawful Sunday traders. The common ground was that in both cases the actions complained of were alleged to constitute criminal offences.

It is surprising that the Attorney General thought it right to bring the "Exit" proceedings since the strongly held view that civil proceedings should only exceptionally be brought to restrain acts made criminally unlawful or to declare such acts to be unlawful was greatly reinforced by the unanimous decision of the House of Lords in the well known case of *Gouriet*. In that case I was fortunate in having the advice of Treasury junior counsel, Mr Harry Woolf (as he then was), before deciding to refuse Mr Gouriet my consent to proceedings in the Attorney General's name.

Churchill and Jews

From Mr Oscar Nemon
Sir, Every time there is a political vacuum in the Middle East, as there is at present, and disunity among the Arab leaders, there is an open invitation to Soviet Russia (possibly signed by the PLO) to move in and to reduce them all to slavery.

Churchill understood the beneficial consequences of such a grand reconciliation. Speaking of the hopes of the Jewish people for a homeland, after so many centuries of waiting, he prophesied in 1921 in Jerusalem that the state of Israel "will be realized here, not only for your own good but for the good of the world".

Finance for films

From Mr Jarvis Stoddart
Sir, Mr David Hewson, in his article (April 13) seems to be unaware of the fact that the feature film industry is an endangered species, not just in England but everywhere. Does he not know that it receives some sort of subsidy in practically every country in the world apart from the United States?

Many of the Australian films that have received such critical acclaim could not have been made without government support. Recently the Canadian Film Development Corporation set aside £18m to help private production companies and independent producers. For every dollar raised in the fund, the producer must raise at least two dollars from other sources and within five years the fund is expected to increase to £30m.

The idea that culture can be made to pay for itself doesn't work for ballet, opera or the symphony. Why should it for feature film in the eighties in the same position? The film business is expensive and risky, with uncertain budgets and uncertain results. But the rewards are worth it and not just in financial terms.

Unacceptable face of cable TV

From Mr Walter Hayes
Sir, It takes three days for *The Times* to reach me here in the United States and longer for me to respond by letter. I nevertheless hope that it is not too late for me to comment on Howard Davies's rhetorical question: "Do we really need the BBC?" (feature, April 26).

The fundamental fallacy behind all the arguments advanced by the prophets of cable television is that it would be better than the established system and would also offer a wider choice. Experience in the United States proves that neither is true. New restaurants open up here all the time but the food does not get better or more varied and they are invariably forced to resort to sales promotion and special indigestible offers to keep their tables occupied.

Post-coital pill

From Dr J. O. Drife
Sir, Many people (including many doctors) assume that conception is usually followed by pregnancy. This is not the case. Fertile couples having intercourse at the time of ovulation have an 85 per cent chance of conception, but half of these conceptions are normally lost with the next menstruation, and a further 20 per cent in the early weeks of pregnancy.

Railway architecture

From Mr Bernard Kaukas
Sir, Charles McKean's description of the Denmark Hill saga (feature, April 25) gives the misleading impression of a reluctant British Rail being dragged along by a local society and the brilliant idea of finding a beneficial use for the restored building was put to them by the society did they agree to treat.

A woman's place

From Lord Davidson
Sir, It might interest The 300 group (April 28) to know that in the large vote on Tuesday in this House, when the Government was defeated during the committee stage of the Housing and Building Control Bill, of the 278 peers who voted, 31 were peeresses - 11.1 per cent.

Thought for the day

From Mr H. A. Guy
Sir, I was at first staggered and then fascinated by the heading of the Science report on Page 2 of today's *Times* (April 29) - "Carvings twice as old as thought".



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 4: The Hon Robert Boscawen... The Queen received General Sir Harry Tuzo...

KENSINGTON PALACE May 4: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, The Kensington Society... The Duchess of Kent will attend a concert...

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE May 4: Princess Alexandra, Vice-President of the British Red Cross Society... The Gosh ball, in aid of the Hospitals for Sick Children...

Receptions Windsor Eton and District Royal Warrant Holders Association... Institute of Measurement and Control

Dinners Electronic Engineering Association... Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company

Marriages Captain S. Hearn and Miss E. L. Calder-Smith... Mr W. J. Mander and Miss J. E. Curtis

Birthdays today Sir Charles Fletcher-Cooke... The engagement is announced between Mrs. son of Mr. Belle Filler...

Portsmouth Grammar School The governors of Portsmouth Grammar School announce that Mr Anthony Evans head of modern languages and humanities at Dulwich College...

Two victims of a severe winter By Kenneth Gosling... Two species of British bird, the kingfisher and the grey wagtail, were particularly badly affected by the severe winter of 1981-82...

The kingfisher: 64 per cent fall in numbers... location of swans; those in the hillier regions, such as Wales and the Shetlands, should watch out for buzzards...

Kent nurseries take show honours

By Janet Browne, Horticulture Correspondent

Rhododendrons in all their glory predominate at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show in the Old Hall, Westminster...

Smith, of Letty Green, Hertfordshire, showing many varieties of daffodils, including new seedlings...

Excellent exhibits confronted the judges in the competitive classes of rhododendrons...

The McLaren Challenge Cup for one species was awarded to Mr R. S. Clarke, of Haywards Heath...

Luncheon

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were the guests of honour at the annual civic luncheon of the City Livery Club yesterday...

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Memorial service Marquess Camden Prince Michael of Kent was represented by the Hon Sir Clive Bosson at a memorial service for Marquess Camden held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks...

Christening The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Leon Le Besque was christened Charlotte Elaine Jones on April 24, 1983, by the Rev W. Prince at Esber Methodist Church.

Two British-based balloonists who plan to fly to the edge of space are in a race with a US team. Mr Michael Kendrick, aged 36, and Mr Per Lindstrand, aged 34, hope to make a flight in July to 80,000ft...



A new portrait of Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, commissioned by the Benchers of Gray's Inn and painted by George J. D. Bruce...

Farmer appeals to Europe over route of motorway

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

A farmer appealed to the European Court of Human Rights yesterday to redress against British transport planning policy which threatens to cut his land in half with a motorway...

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tiny freehold plots for sale all over the world. He also refused to identify Mr Holloway as the owner of a second field earmarked for a similar sale...

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OBITUARY

SIR RICHARD LE GALLAIS Former Chief Justice of Aden

Sir Richard (Lyle) Le Gallais, the last Chief Justice of Aden, died suddenly at his home on April 29, he was 67. He was born in St. Helier, Jersey, a member of an old island family...

WING CDR E. W. ANDERSON D. H. S. writes: The death on April 21 of Wing Commander E. W. Anderson, OBE, DFC, AFC...

Mr F. C. de SARAM Mr F. C. ("Derek") de Saram, who died in Colombo on April 11 aged 70, was one of Ceylon's outstanding cricketers...

MR PETER DUNBAR Peter Dunbar, who died suddenly on April 29, had a distinguished career in many areas of publishing...

PROF ABRAHAM SACHS Abraham Sachs, the eminent Egyptologist, died on April 22, aged 69. For nearly forty years, as Professor of the History of Mathematics in Brown University, Rhode Island, he specialized with O. Neugebauer...

ABDEFATTAH ABOUTALEB Abdelattah Aboutaleb, who was world squash champion for three years running from 1963 to 1965, had died in Lewisham at the age of 44.

MILLFIELD SCHOOL The following have been awarded music scholarships at Millfield School from September.

Latest appointments Viscount Ridley, to be Lord-Lieutenant of Northumbria and North-East Wales from January 1, 1984, in succession to the Duke of Northumberland...

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Lady Brooke-Popham, widow of Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, GCVO, KCB, CMG, DSO, AFC, who was Commander-in-Chief Far East at the time of the Japanese onslaught in 1941, died on May 3...

Pensions

The trend towards earlier retirement makes pensions an increasingly important subject.

The National Association of Pension Funds today begins its diamond jubilee conference at Brighton. Margaret Drummond reports.



Jonathan Williams

The change to a state earnings-related pension scheme, introduced in April 1978, heralded a new era in pension provision in the United Kingdom. But despite the plan of ensuring that all employed people would qualify for a pension based on their earnings, instead of just those who were part of a company pension, there remain substantial anomalies and outright faults in the system.

One of the most basic deficiencies is that the scheme does nothing to help pensioners already retired in 1978. In addition, the Civil Service was unable to come up with a way to include the self-employed so they were left out completely, forced to fend for themselves. Another major gap in the scheme is that the state scheme's pension formula only takes account of earnings up to a ceiling of about one and half times national average earnings.

The present limit is £235 a week and earnings above this limit do not qualify for the state pension. The result is that if your earnings are higher than the ceiling, the state pension is a lower percentage of salary.

Another problem concerns those who are now nearing retirement age, now 65 for a man and 60 for a woman. The scheme provides an earnings-related pension of 1/80th of earnings for each year of contributions with the best years to count on a revalued basis. But it is only the years since April 1978 that count and although intermediate amounts are payable for those who do not build up their full potential entitlement to additional pension until April 1998, people retiring now still receive little more than the basic pension.

The scheme is based on a contributions test which means paying in for 90 per cent of working life and although periods of working abroad, taking a degree or just dropping out may be included the only allowable gaps—periods when it is considered contributions have been made although they are not actually been paid—are during registered sickness, unemployment or during invalidity or maternity benefit. So it is still possible for employees who pass the test for a lot less than 90 per cent of the working life to get no basic pension at all.

Other problems concern women specifically because although married women may claim a pension on her husband's record if she does not have enough contributions of her own, she must have reached pensionable age and retired when she makes her claim. And while widows, aged over 40 at the time of the husband's death, may claim a pension based on the husband's contributions, widowers are only eligible to claim on the wife's record if both parties were at pensionable age when she died and he has retired anyway.

Divorced women are only able to claim on their former husband's contributions for the years before the marriage ended and on remarriage, any claim on the former husband's contributions ceases.

Another major criticism of the state scheme is the lack of a lump sum payment on retirement or at death if the contributor is still working. This is because the system was designed to be an income replacement scheme when an employee can no longer provide for him or herself and spouse and there is no facility for commutating part of the pension for a lump sum.

This is in contrast with company schemes which provide lump sums on death while working and allow employees to convert part of the pension into a tax free lump sum.

A third component of the state scheme is the graduated pension. This is only for people who were at least 18 and employed between 1961 and 1975 and who earned more than £9 a week during that time. The scheme has now been abandoned but past contributions are still rewarded with a small pension, and although it has been increased in line with rising prices after April 1978, the maximum benefit for a man is under £4 a week and just over £3 for a woman and most people receive considerably less than these amounts.

At the same time as the additional pension scheme was introduced in 1978 employers who already ran occupational pension schemes could either join the new state scheme or contract out allowing the occupational scheme to perform the same function as the state's additional pension.

These contracted out employees pay lower National Insurance contributions but the employer's scheme has to be at least as good as the additional scheme provided by the state. The main difference is that the employer is not expected to foot

RETIREMENT

The snags in the state scheme: what do you get?

the difference between the benefits and the increase in prices so the state pays the inflation increases to the pension after retirement. These schemes often provide other benefits such as long term sickness pay and payments on death for example as well as pension for a surviving spouse or dependents.

In spite of all the good intentions behind the erection of the improved state scheme there remains a fundamental problem and that is how will they be paid in 50 years time? As the number of pensioners increases in relation to the number of contributors, the state will have to cope with the increased burden of payment. The Institute of Fiscal Studies has already said that insufficient consideration was given to the long term cost when the state scheme was extended five years ago and even the Chancellor of the Exchequer has admitted that we have locked ourselves into providing benefits without making the economic adjustments necessary to sustain them.

The 1981 report of the Scott committee which looked at the extra value of index-linked public service pensions highlighted some of the problems, and the differences between the private sector provision where inflation eats into the provision and the public sector whose beneficiaries are hoping that index linking will not be abolished.

The other bugbear, inflation, may disappear but it has never been considered safe when making social policy decisions in the recent past to assume that it will.

According to some estimates the present arrangement between the state and occupational pension schemes will mean that total expenditure on pensions will represent 30-35 per cent of total wages and salaries in 50 years time, and this figure could go even higher, compared with about 17 per cent today.

Ultimately the question of provision turns on employment, not just the overall economy, for while the trend continues of expansion down the technology path the result could either be a smaller and diminishing workforce or a return to full employment in new industries. If the latter happens, schemes will have to be changed to cope with the number of people who transfer during their working life from one system to another.

And in the former case a rethink will have to be made to ensure a livelihood for those whose working lives are curtailed, or even shared for a greater part of their careers.

Rosemary Unsworth

As delegates to the National Association of Pension Funds' Diamond Jubilee conference sit down at the Metropole Hotel in Brighton today they cannot complain about 1983 being a dull year.

There has been some radical thinking about pensions from the right as well as the perennial suggestions from the left. Change is in the air. The Government is seriously thinking about the possibility of giving individuals freedom of choice in pensions. It is studying recommendations that the earnings related part of the state scheme could be privatized. It has pressed the pension funds to do something about the plight of early leavers and it is considering important new legislation to cover pensions, currently somewhat inadequately catered for by trust law.

Attempts are also being made to set up for the first time an independent, low cost advice and arbitration service for employees, many of whom seem totally bewildered when faced with decisions about their pensions—for many the largest investment they will make in their lives.

By far the most fascinating of the current debates is on individual choice in pension schemes—the do-it-yourself pension as it has been swiftly dubbed. Many people have to join an occupational pension scheme as a condition of employment. In theory this seems fair considering the background to pensions in this country.

Until 20 years ago membership of pension schemes was largely voluntary, with the result that many workers faced the prospect of retirement without a proper pension, often relying on ex gratia payments by their employers or, more often, state benefits.

The philosophy behind the pensions upheaval of the mid-1970s was that everyone should have something decent to retire on. Occupational pensions expanded as many more employees found themselves members of schemes for the first

time—with the pleasant prospect of benefits superior to what they would get under the new state scheme.

Just over a month ago it was revealed that the Treasury was examining how the individual could best be allowed to do his or her own thing in pensions. Undoubtedly the main philosophical thrust has come from the Government, and in particular Mrs Thatcher's belief in freedom of choice for the individual. But such a change also meets some of the practical drawbacks of occupational pension schemes.

It overcomes the most serious pitfall for many—the fact that anyone who changes jobs during his working life will be penalised. Most pension

schemes work to a two-thirds of final salary formula—that being the maximum allowed under the tax rules. In practice only a small percentage of workers in private industry stand to get this generous amount. Most people change jobs several times, and each time, under present practice, they face a pension loss.

If an early leaver controlled his own pension destiny throughout his career there would be no loss as a result of changing jobs. But do-it-yourself pensions are not without pitfalls. No one, least of all a government with an eagle eye on public spending, wants to go back to the days of people ending up reliant on the state in their old age.

Clearly there must be some stiff rules and regulations about making sure the individual puts something away for old age, and that at least some of it (a half is contemplated) goes into approved investments.

There has to be some hard thinking about the tax situation—at the moment employees are

allowed to put up to 15 per cent of their earnings into occupational pension schemes, compared with the 17 per cent "net relevant earnings" permitted the self-employed. For the former, eventual benefits are restricted at present to the two-thirds, for the latter there is no such cut-off point. All these aspects need to be looked at carefully.

On a broader level, the idea is attractive both to those who resent the compulsory nature of occupational pension schemes and those who feel that the way to economic prosperity is to turn everyone into capitalists. Although half the pension contribution might go into "approved" investments the other half might be used for more entrepreneurial ventures—dear to the heart of Mrs Thatcher and her advisers.

It is also thought that individuals could get the scent of the profit motive in their nostrils if they were responsible for their own pensions. This would be good for the whole economy.

That at any rate is the theory—in practice it would bring great problems for the occupational pension schemes, who now subsidize the pensions of their older employees through the contributions of their younger members and early leavers.

While the idea of do-it-yourself pensions might well get bogged down in the mire of practical difficulties the pension funds, almost certainly face the prospect of new legislation—probably within the next year.

It is well over a year since Professor Jim Gower at the Department of Trade pointed out that the pensions industry was one of the least regulated sectors of the investment business. The initial response from the National Association of Pension Funds was muted hostility, but this year, with the Government apparently committed to legislation after extensive discussions and the prospect of a Green Paper before the autumn, it will

debate the possible contents of a new Pension Fund Act.

This is now expected to be less than a radical sweep, more of a tidying up and improvement in trust law relating to pension funds, plus, perhaps most important of all, making the funds more accountable to their members.

In principle, the NAPF supports the Occupational Pensions Board recommendations for fuller disclosure, the provision to members of regular information such as annual reports and accounts and changes in the law which would make everyone concerned with running the pension scheme answerable to members.

Any new act would be hotly debated on all sides. A few months ago the TUC produced its suggestions, among them demands for union (not member) representation on boards of trustees, and rather grandiose plans for the formation of a National Investment Bank to take up to £1,000m of pension fund money a year to support expansion of industry and jobs.

While these plans are unlikely to find much support among pension fund members, let alone the managers who control the money, no one in

the pension fund industry can afford to ignore the growing fashion for some form of social accountability both from right and left.

The left may well support Mr Arthur Scargill's opposition to the investment of pension fund contributions abroad (now around 13 per cent of the total). But equally the present government is eager to listen to any plans to harness the pension fund treasure chest to reviving inner city areas, providing jobs and housing as well as capital, particularly for small businesses.

The Brighton conference may well produce a partial solution to one of the main problems of pensions—maintaining their real value. In the public sector pensions are index linked, but there is no such generous tradition in the private sector, which simply could not afford to make such an open-ended commitment.

Some companies do now guarantee a small—usually no more than 3 or 4 per cent—annual. But there is no specific obligation.

Many people, especially early leavers, have seen their pensions fall massively behind inflation.

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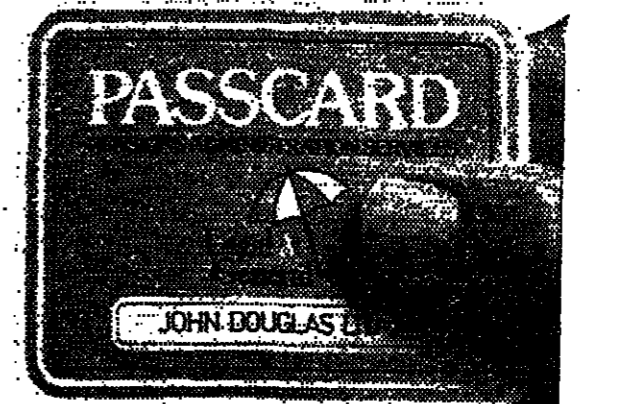
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During the last year some of the benefits incorporated in directors' contracts have come under fire; the most notable have been golden handshakes and golden parachute provisions when a board member arranges for substantial compensation in the event of loss of office, as well as facilities for cheap home loans.

But executive pensions, often described as "a nice perk if you can get it", have remained outside the orbit of envy and although the recession's effect on companies in the private sector has contributed to a slowing down in executive pension business, the schemes largely remain attractive and are still expanding.

The growth in the business has been during the last year since controlling directors have been allowed to join a company pension scheme. Before that they had to use provisions designed for the self-employed. And the key to the executive pension business has been its tax efficiency whereby shareholders directors have been able to take money out of the business as well as the opportunity to give executives better

benefits in retirement than other employees.

Controlling directors may still choose between a personal pension or a self-employed plan or an executive scheme but the benefits are calculated in different ways. Both the employer's contributions (and employee's if he or she contributes) under the executive scheme are fully tax deductible. Thus the employees can get tax relief at the highest rate of income tax, excluding the investment income surcharge. The benefit for the employer means that in the case of a company tax relief comes out of corporation tax and for an individual at the highest rate of tax again.

Under an executive scheme the contributions are invested in a fund which is tax free on its income from investments or deposits and free from capital gains tax and these allowances are in turn passed on to the beneficiary. The benefits may also be paid either as a tax free cash sum on retirement or as a pension which is regarded as earned income and not subject to investment income surcharge. Also if the employee dies while still working any lump sum benefit can be paid so it is free of capital transfer tax.

Besides the tax incentive of these schemes changing patterns in management as well as the

EXECUTIVE CHOICE

Going one better than a golden handshake

state pension scheme have brought about these developments. The British Institute of Management reported recently that in 1975 managers had changed jobs on average three times by the time they were between 35 and 39 compared with an average of just once 30 years ago. And it is reckoned that by the time today's managers retire only one in 10 of them will have stayed with a single employer throughout their careers.

But despite these changes pension schemes are still heavily biased in favour of the executive who stays with the same company all his working life. On top of this the more mobile manager may end up earning more than his more conservative counterpart and yet retire on a substantially smaller pension because of the inability to transfer his pension as he moves jobs.

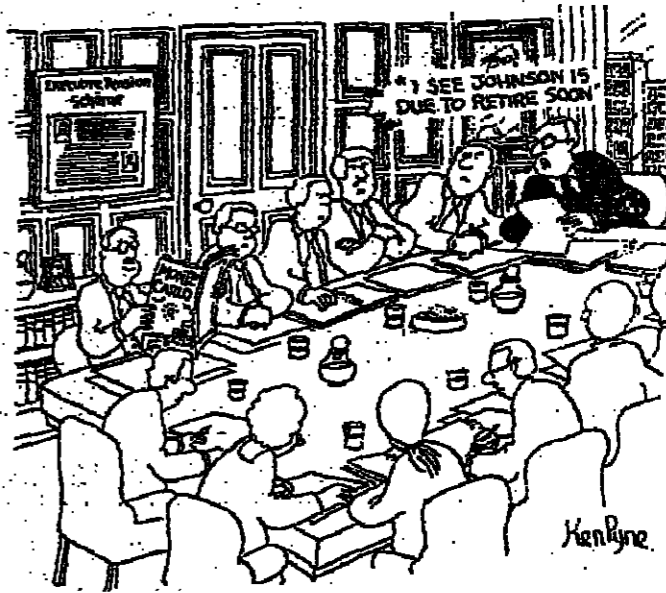
One estimate is that an employee who changes jobs once in his working life receives 60 per cent of the benefits of those who stay with one employer. The Occupational Pensions Board which looked at some of the problems in 1981 has been attacked for "simply nibbling" at the problem with a recommendation that reserved pensions should be improved at the rate of 5 per cent a year. The Inland Revenue's superannua-

tion funds office has been criticised for adhering to the notion that the proper basis for pensions calculations is 1/60 of final salary for each year of service and that no person should have more than two thirds of final salary as a pension.

As a result some schemes are available which an executive can take with him to the next job, allowing him to negotiate the level of contribution to a centralized trust which is Inland Revenue approved and allows the relevant tax concessions.

The executive's own contribution must not exceed 15 per cent of his salary and the rate of interest credited to the fund is at least equal to the Building Society Association's recommended mortgage rate at the time. But even these few schemes are not so far entirely successful since most companies will not regard any single executive as so vital that they will want to take over an existing pension scheme from another employer.

A more pertinent benefit of executive schemes is the flexibility they offer at retirement, when the individual has a much clearer idea of his or her requirements. A scheme which incorporates a widow's pension may be of little use if the male executive is already widowed at retirement. In other cases where



Ken Rye

the scheme is for the small businessman the company may not be able to afford a great deal.

Just as in any other form of investment there are risks with the policies on the market and it is important for the individual to investigate the level of risk tolerated in search of higher returns and the extent that the risks are borne by the policyholder. Several quotations should always be sought and the efficiency of a company may be measured by its ability to handle such queries as well as whether its benefits are realistically tied to its budget.

Controlling directors are among those who have the greatest need for effective tax planning because although there has been a substantial reduction in the higher rate bands following the 1979 budget a 10 per cent salary increase today for a £25,000 a year executive would net about £1,250 if tax is paid at the 50 per cent rate.

Applied as a yearly premium to a pension plan, the retirement benefits could be substantially better than the salary increase.

A further attraction where owners of companies are concerned are loanbacks from the insurance company against the security of the policy or the pension fund itself for business development although these schemes should be only considered most prudently. Personal loans under pension plans to directors, the subject of hot debate recently, are another factor worth considering in executive pension plans.

The problem is whether or not they contravene the Companies Act 1980 and some of the major insurance companies have opposing views of the legislation although a few are now offering them, including Crown Life, Legal & General and Hambro.

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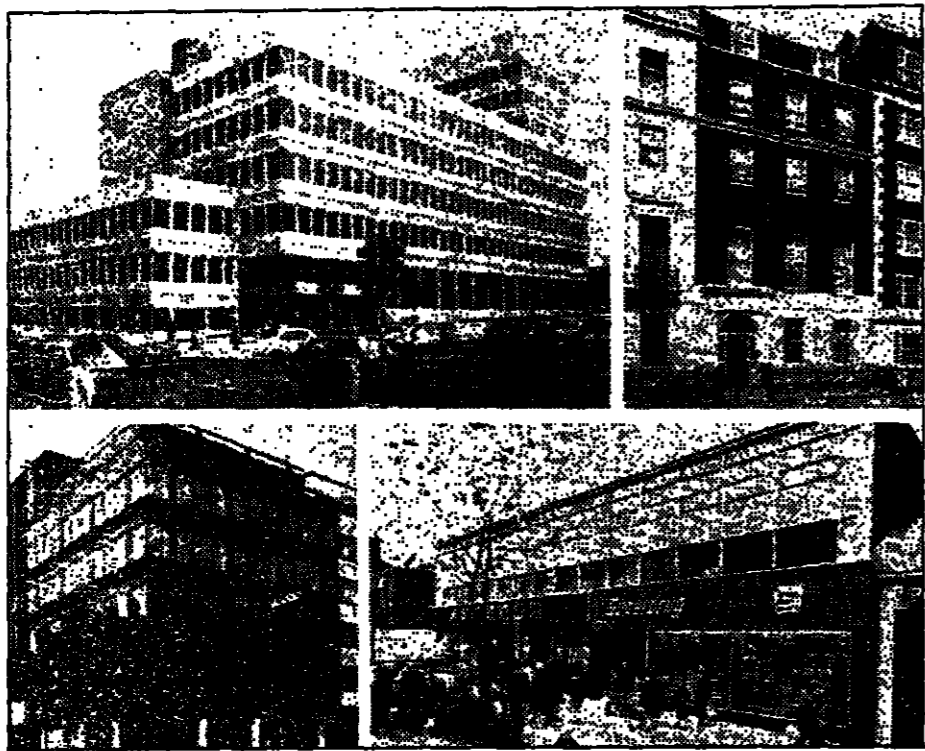
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PERSONAL PENSIONS

What's best for the self-employed

Jane Austen must have had a secret admiration for an insurance salesman. "People always live forever," she wrote in *Sense and Sensibility*, "where there is any annuity to be paid to them... an annuity is a very serious business; it comes over and over every year, and there is no getting rid of it".

Such sentiments are of considerable help in marketing self-employed pension policies, especially since when the annuity is to be paid by an insurance company, the worry is that it will be paid for too short a time.

And in the last two or three years, insurance companies have enjoyed spectacular growth in the market for self-employed pensions - particularly welcome when many company pension funds have become self-administered, and withdrawn their assets from insurance company management.

Another boost was provided in 1981 by big relaxations in Inland Revenue restraints on the level of contributions which could attract tax relief. There is now the opportunity to use unexploited tax reliefs for up to seven previous years in some circumstances. And for older people up to 32.5 per cent of net relevant income will rank for tax relief - provided the policyholder can afford it.

After marketing to the self-employed, some insurers are trying to encourage employees to leave company pension schemes and convert to self-employed policies. It is possible therefore that the extraordinary growth in self-employed pensions business will be maintained.

The position of the employed and self-employed reflects a complete reversal of the advice offered only a few years ago. If you had the chance, membership of a company pension scheme was the best value for money. Usually index-linked, with the employer picking up any unforeseen financial tabs, enjoying economies of scale, and suffering low (if any) commissions, company pension schemes seemed ideal. But even angels have feet of clay; and for many highly mobile executives, and less mobile but redundancy-prone staff, the benefits have proved somewhat of a chimera.

The drawbacks of company schemes have been highlighted now that the range of self-

employed pensions has improved so dramatically. As before, of course, insurance companies offer a wide variety of investment opportunities, including non-profit, with-profit and unit-linked contracts, like any other form of saving.

But the last year has also seen the introduction of complex schemes attempting to provide "self-administered" status to schemes for the self-employed. Difficulties were encountered, but the more balanced schemes today offer such inducements as "loanbacks" (allowing policyholders to borrow back up to 15 times their annual premiums, albeit usually secured on an asset) and even "self-managed" schemes where an insurance company appoints a policyholder to manage his own contributions. Politically these schemes are likely to prove ever more attractive, with their connotations of "self-help" implications of entrepreneurial venture capital investment and compliance with the philosophy that "small is beautiful".

It is reasonable to suppose therefore that genuinely self-administered schemes for the self-employed, avoiding the problems of commission, high expense loadings and Department of Trade investment restrictions on insurance companies will be available soon. It may be that even company pension schemes will follow the route of the big funds, and decide to give members the opportunity to manage their own contributions and those contributions made on their behalf - but it would be a mistake to assume that insurance companies will attract the business lost to pension funds.

The funds will indubitably reconstruct their rules - the could, go elsewhere, since monopoly will not be encouraged.

For those who choose conventional insurance policies considerable guidance is needed. First, alternatives should be examined. Partnership annuities, less popular than before, should be seriously considered. They offer not only cash-flow benefits but significant capital transfer and gains tax advantages, and they can now be index-linked. There are friendly society schemes; there is even the chance to set up an occupational (company) pension scheme for a partner who is

continued on page IV

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Still showing its mettle

Sixty years ago a group of pension fund managers gathered together in what is now London Transport's head office to inaugurate a new association. That meeting is being celebrated by the pension fund industry this week, as the group grew into the National Association of Pension Funds. Although this was the formal beginning of the association, it had already shown its mettle. Its founder members had been at the forefront of those seeking income tax relief for superannuation funds. The lobby started in 1917, made such progress that by 1921 its requirements were incorporated in the Finance Act of that year.

The pension fund managers' intention was, as it is still, to have an association which could act to protect and develop the pension fund movement. The group at that first formal meeting in January, 1923, were by no means as great in numbers, funds or members as that in Brighton this week. But it was drawn from an impressively wide range of industries. The *Times* pension fund manager was there, as were the representatives of Cunard, and other shipping groups, Bournville, English Sewing Cotton, Manchester Corporation, and other public service bodies. The leading light was a Mr John Mitchell of the Omnibus, Railway and Equipment Company.

In 1983 the association members manage around £90,000m, and those funds cover around 93 per cent of people in occupational pension



NAPF leaders: Maxwell Lander, president; Maurice Oldfield, chairman; Tom Heyes, chairman-elect.

schemes. The association's 2,000 members and associates have to be more tightly organized to cope with the complexity of fiscal and legal requirements that have grown over the years. The association is, for example, the major point of contact in the industry for government bodies wanting information, as well as for its members with the outside world.

There is a full-time secretariat, run by Mr Henry James, the association's director-general. It has a number of committees formed to deal with

such day-to-day necessities as finance and membership, but also education of newcomers into the industry, and international matters. This latter

committee is of growing importance since Britain's membership of the European Economic Community.

Most vital of the committees are investment and the parliamentary committee. The parliamentary committee looks after the extremely important business of liaising with government, and lobbying for the legislation desired by the association members to help them carrying on their business. But it is the investment committee which has been the most prominent in the public eye over the last few years, as it has taken an increasingly active interest in the affairs of financially troubled companies in which the pension funds have invested money.

The case committees, set up under the aegis of the main investment committee, have made more low profile attempts to remedy management problems and inadequacies causing erosion of investors' capital than high profile ones. But the attacks on the present structure of the pension fund industry by the trade union movement, and other interests, are changing this. Challenged with not accepting responsibility, the chief officers of pension funds are increasingly to be found letting it be known by speaking at annual general meetings and to the press that they have not been merely sitting at their computers counting their sums. An increasing volume of work is being created by the

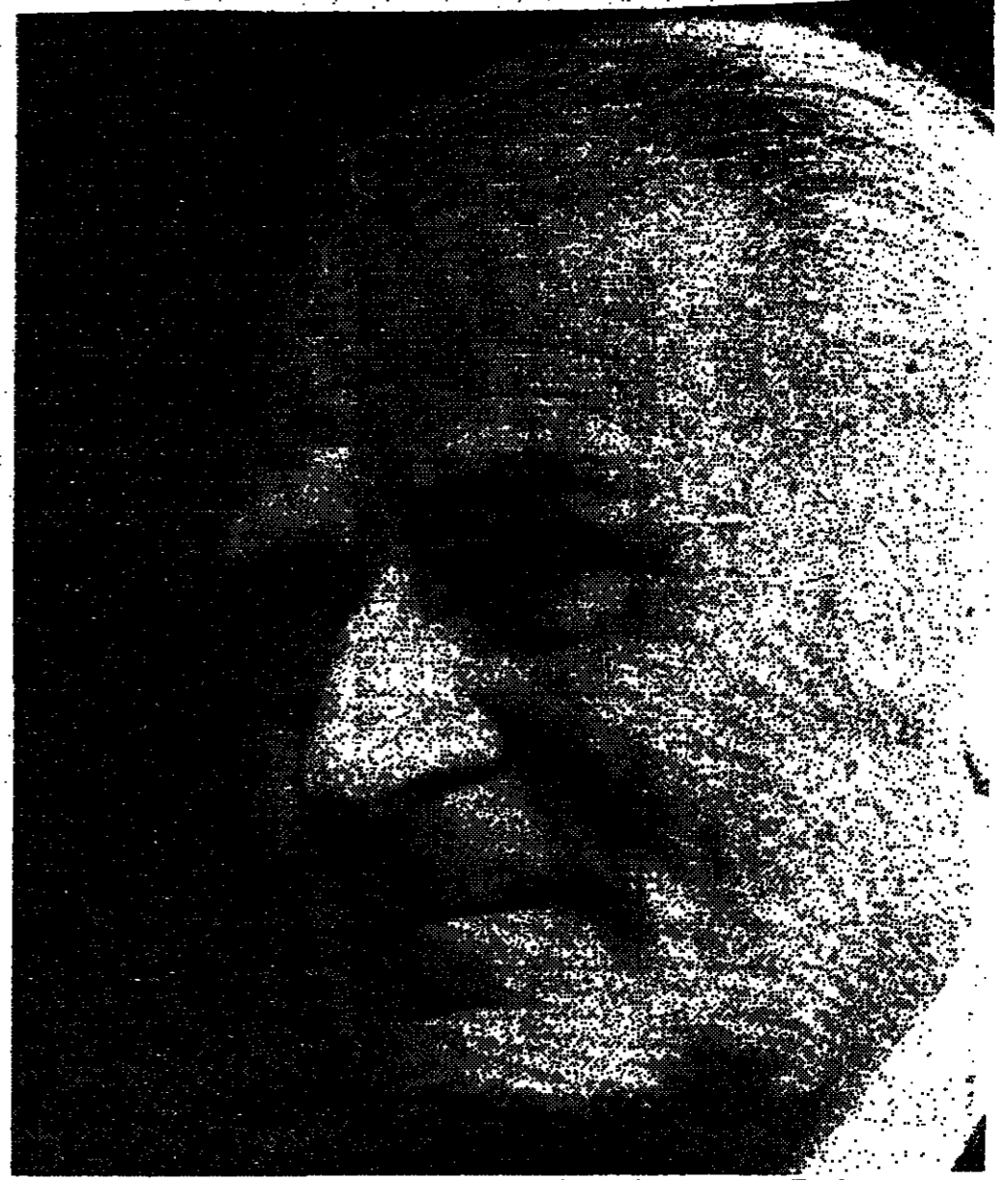
lobbies for change, and by the jealous eyes cast by government and other groups on that £90,000m. There is also the public debate on the problem of the present lack of manoeuvrability of an employee's pension fund should he leave a company or become redundant.

Mr James says the association plans to build up a research group to cope with the many calls made on it, but this will depend on resources. At the moment much of the burden of research is carried by the larger members.

The purpose of this conference, in Mr James eyes, is to ensure that the association is actively pursuing the aims of its members. "I think it is very important that we keep in touch with our members. I believe that one of the important changes I have made is to turn the conference into a major policy making occasion than just a jolly," he said. But the conference can also help the industry's public image. The difficulties caused by the present rigidities can make the public forget that the association has lobbied for change in favour of the employee—such as the linking of pensions with salary—thinking of it instead as a group of Scrooges who do not want to part with money.

The point that Mr James would most like to come over from the four-day conference is that "the industry's main responsibility is to the welfare of the individual pensioner."

Sally White



Henry James, director-general, National Association of Pension Funds

EARLY LEAVERS

The dream that fades when you change jobs

The threat posed to occupational pension funds by any move to give individual employees freedom of choice may spur the industry to do something about the problem of early leavers. Their plight was highlighted in the Occupational Pension Board's report in June 1981, after prolonged criticism, but little has been done.

The prospect of retiring on two thirds of final salary is an impossible dream for most employees. If you change jobs you lose in two ways. You may have no option than to accept a deferred pension from your old employer, based on your salary when leaving. Few schemes ever uprate this benefit, and by the time you get it inflation will probably have reduced its real value to laughable proportions.

You may have the option of transferring the pension from the first to the new employer, and taking a lump sum into the new job. That will buy you some years' benefit in the new scheme.

But not all pension funds allow you to take money with you. And even if you can transfer you still lose. The two sets of actuaries calculate the transfer payment by a method which means that 10 years of contributions to employer A may entitle you to only five, three or even one year of contributions with employer B. Early leavers find that very hard to accept, and no wonder.

The Government cannot afford to overlook the economic consequences. A highly paid and experienced executive, for instance, is bound to think twice about changing jobs in middle age when his pension prospects will be severely damaged. That will not encourage the job mobility the Government desires.

In pension funds the best returns are for those who stay in the same job all their lives: not one would have thought, the employee nearest Mrs Thatcher's heart. But despite the OPB report, which recommended a maximum 5 per cent uplift in frozen pensions each year, and some threatening noises from the Government, nothing has been done.

The National Association of Pension Funds, though worried about the cost of all this, recommends its members to make some increases in deferred pensions. It has also been

worried about other claims on the pension purse—the cost of equalizing the retirement age and guaranteeing uprating of pension payments.

The association's softer line on early leavers clearly depends on these other issues being solved first. Deferred pensions and transfer value calculations could possibly form part of forthcoming legislation.

An interesting role might be played by the new low-cost advice and arbitration service for pension fund members—a sort of pensions Ombudsman—which is being eagerly canvassed.

Pension contributions form an increasing part of people's savings, but recent surveys have indicated amazing apathy from employees parting with their money. Faced with a choice between a deferred pension and a transfer, most employees, unless they are wealthy enough to hire a private consultant, would not know what to do.

The unions are becoming better informed, and several companies have a helpful attitude, but no single, authoritative, cheap, convenient source of informed and unbiased advice exists for the man in the street.

For many years the pension funds have held all the cards, the individual had to take what he was offered, unless he was exceptionally lucky. But competition could well change things.

We may still have a long way to go before individual employees can decide against an occupational pension scheme in favour of a do-it-yourself plan, but several insurance companies have been quick to spot the market for job leavers. Employees whose pension funds allow them to transfer now have a third option—to transfer the money not to an employer but to an insurance company which uses the accumulated lump sum to purchase a pension for the employee on retirement.

London & Manchester Assurance led the way in November 1981 with its Transplan. This has been followed by a number of others. These do not by themselves get rid of the problem of low-transfer values, but they do offer a better alternative if you expect to change jobs several times.

MD

Employees' annual contributions

	Staff Schemes	Works Schemes	Combined Schemes	All Schemes
Average annual contribution based on eligible earnings of:				
£4,000	£170.74 % 4.27	£132.25 % 3.31	£165.44 % 4.14	£182.81 % 4.07
£6,000	£267.55 % 4.46	£207.90 % 3.47	£281.52 % 4.36	£256.32 % 4.27
£10,000	£461.02 % 4.81	£362.24 % 3.82	£465.22 % 4.55	£444.43 % 4.44
£14,000	£658.61 % 4.71	£513.70 % 3.87	£666.04 % 4.69	£637.51 % 4.55
Overall average contribution rate	% 4.51	% 3.52	% 4.44	% 4.33

Employers' annual contribution if contributory scheme

	Staff Schemes	Works Schemes	Combined Schemes	All Schemes
Average annual contribution based on eligible earnings of:				
£4,000	£505.39 % 12.83	£274.88 % 8.87	£403.82 % 10.09	£424.23 % 10.81
£6,000	£780.83 % 12.68	£462.07 % 7.70	£690.59 % 10.51	£666.43 % 10.94
£10,000	£1,311.12 % 13.11	£729.22 % 7.29	£1,081.68 % 10.82	£1,119.44 % 11.19
£14,000	£1,842.22 % 13.16	£744 % 7.44	£1,665.14 % 11.18	£1,597.08 % 11.41
Overall average contribution rate	% 12.90	% 7.33	% 10.85	% 11.04

Source: NAPF Survey, 1982

Pensions for the 21st Century.

It took Norwich Union, with their understanding of people and their needs, to create a whole new generation of individual pension policies.

Here they are: pensions for the managing director and his key employees plus everyone who is self-employed; professional man, actor or builder. All the pensions are designed to pay off handsomely in the 21st century or even before. Norwich Union's investment performance is legendary. If you're looking for a pension, why look further?

FOR CHAIRMEN, DIRECTORS AND KEY EMPLOYEES.

New: Individual Pension Plan. Modern version of what used to be called a top hat scheme. A company can reward valuable members of its staff with a cash fund to buy benefits on retirement.

These can include all senior people provided they are not self-employed, and the Plan is highly tax-effective.

New: Unit-linked Individual Pension Plan. A unit-linked version of the former which, like it, can be entered into any time during the individual's employment, even only a

few years from retirement. Obviously the longer it runs, the more the recipient will benefit from Norwich Union's investment skill.

FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED.

New: Personal Pension Plan. An up-dated personal pension plan which allows the recipient to take, on retirement, income and a tax-free cash sum.

The total fund can be used to buy a pension from any company.

New: Unit-linked Personal Pension Plan. A highly flexible unit-linked policy also specially suitable for the self-employed and those without a company pension.

Premiums can fluctuate with earnings and even stop altogether. With all unit-linked policies investments can go down as well as up, but Norwich Union's performance record is your reassurance.

Both these plans allow policy holders generous tax-relief.

FOR SELECTED EMPLOYEES.

Coming Later: Controlled Cost Pension Plan. This may be offered

to selected groups within a company, say skilled workers.

It is intended to supplement the state earnings-related pension by building up a fund to provide cash or pension.

The company has total control over the level of payments.

LOAN BACK.

All the above policies excepting the Controlled Cost Pension Plan can be used for loan facilities.

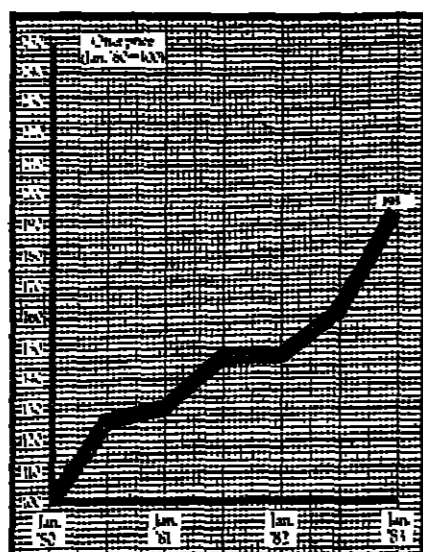
With such a wide choice of policies you'll need the professional advice of a broker, accountant, financial adviser or Norwich Union Branch.

Or perhaps you'd like further details first. Write to the Production Manager (Life) at Norwich Union, Surrey Street, Norwich, NRI 3NG.

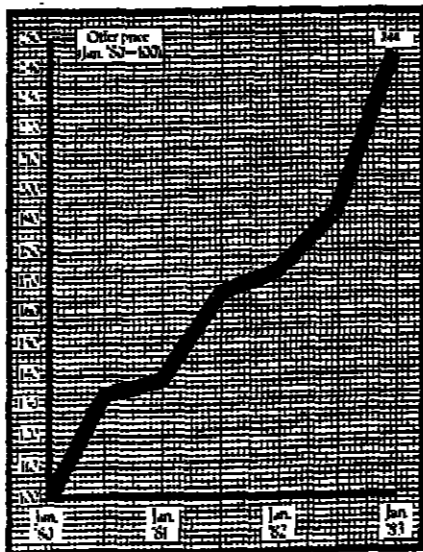
NORWICH UNION INSURANCE

NORWICH PENSIONS

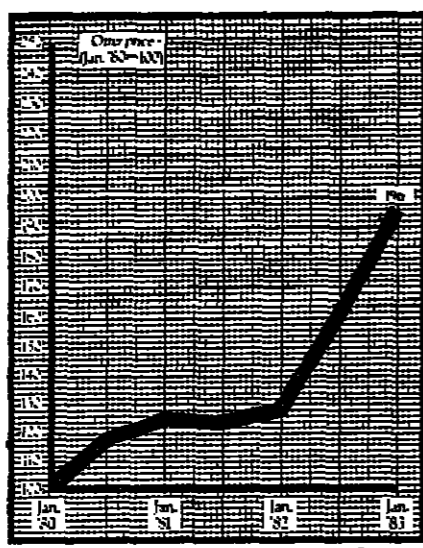
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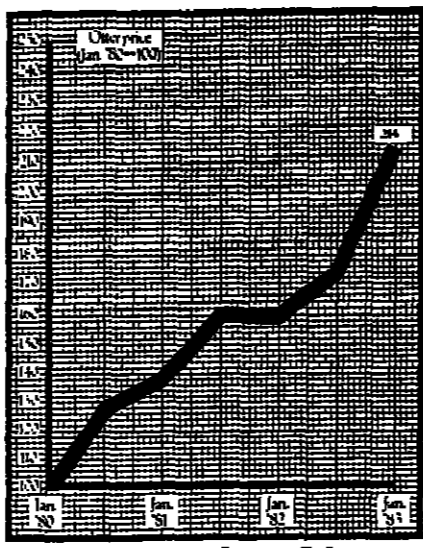
GRE Master Fund



GRE Equity Portfolio



GRE Fixed Interest Portfolio



GRE Mixed Portfolio

If the pensions management you recommend isn't doing as well as this then why are you recommending it?

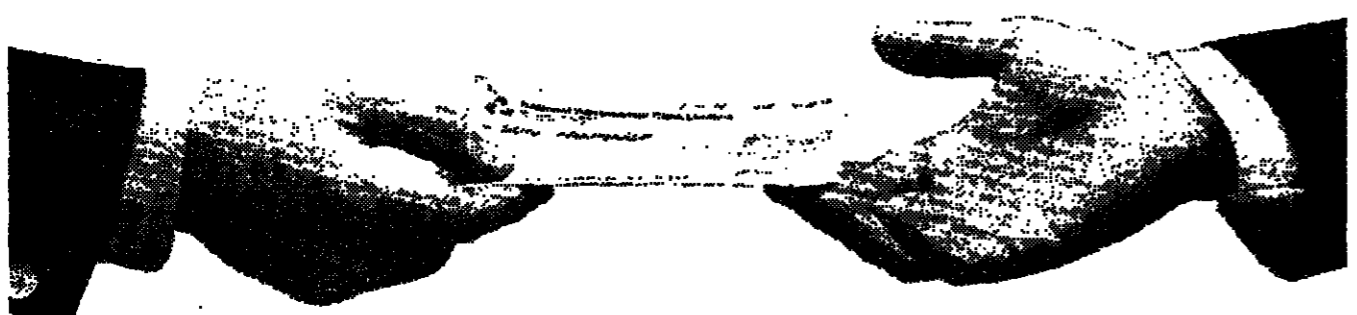
GRE Pensions Management's Master Fund has been running for 11 years. Performance continues to be outstanding for a broad-based pension fund. But to give a wider investment choice we also manage six specialised funds. They are Mixed, Equity, Fixed Interest, Deposit, International and Property. All were launched just over three years ago, and their performance speaks for itself. In the three years to January 1983 our Equity fund rose by 144%, compared to 103% for the FT Actuaries All Share Index. Our Fixed Interest fund rose by 96%, compared to 80% for the FT Actuaries Over 15 year Gilt Index.

And our Mixed Fund was up by 114%. To put these figures in their true perspective, over the same period average earnings rose by 44.2% and retail prices by 37.2%. Which in turn puts our pensions funds very comfortably ahead of both average incomes and inflation. And that, after all, is what good investment management is all about. For full details about our pensions management services contact any GRE branch office, or Ted Gascoigne at GRE Field Operations on 01-283 7101.

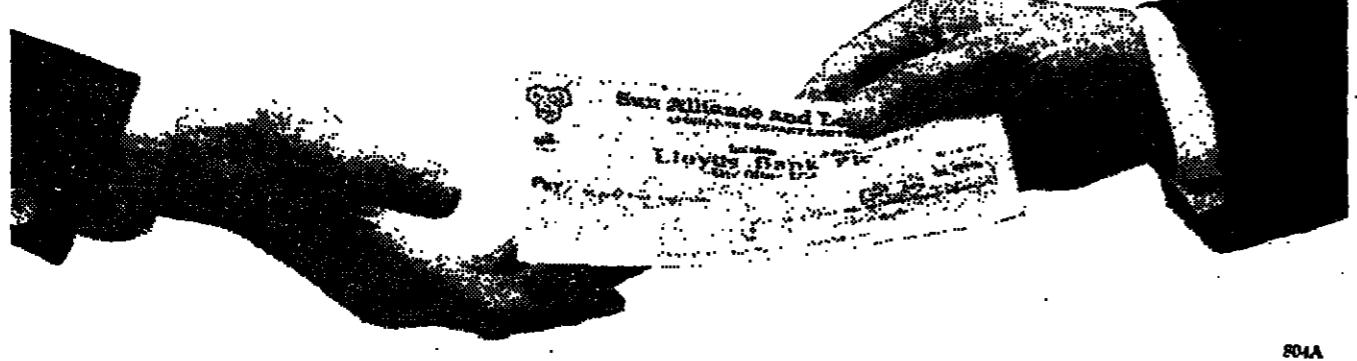


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each investment is made at a discount of at least 40%. Find out more about Sun Alliance Executive Benefit Plan by contacting your nearest Sun Alliance branch or by returning the coupon below.

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Name of Insurance Adviser _____

The fund managers who control the assets of Britain's 90,000 or more occupational schemes have never been in such a powerful position to influence the economy. The value of pension fund assets is estimated at more than £70,000m today against £10,000m a decade ago. Each year the assets of the funds are swollen in two ways: an influx of nearly £7,000m of pension contributions from employers and employees and the return which fund managers achieve on their assets. In 1982 the fund managers were justly pleased with their performance. The return on UK equities as measured by the FT Actuaries All-Share Index was more than 28 per cent, while the return on long-dated gilt edged securities reached 50 per cent. The average return on assets invested overseas was also estimated to be in the region of 30 per cent, leaving investment in property as the only major class of business which produced a return below the prevailing rate of inflation. However, despite this apparent success in handling their clients' funds the fund managers have come under increasing pressure to reduce their overseas investments and channel money principally into British industry. Even under a Conservative administration the managers have been taken to one side and urged to use some of the financial muscle at their command to help reconstruct the battered balance sheets of Britain's hard pressed manufacturing companies. With the prospect of an election in sight fund managers are also casting a nervous eye in the direction of the Labour Party leadership, which plans to use institutional funds as the centre plank of its policy to rejuvenate British industry. Traditionally the pension funds have maintained a consistent balance between investments in four key areas: property, UK equities, UK fixed interest securities, and overseas equities. In 1982 this meant that about 43 per cent of assets were invested in UK equities, 20 per cent in fixed interest securities, with the balance divided between property and overseas investments. The one major change in emphasis during this period has been an increasing amount of investment in overseas equities

FUNDS A powerful influence on the economy



Arthur Scargill: active role in pensions

which was brought about by the relaxation of exchange controls in 1979. The threat of a Labour election victory and the reintroduction of exchange controls has increased the amount of interest taken in overseas investments recently as fund managers channel money out of the UK which they fear might be locked into the home economy if Labour wins power. However the main threat stems from the joint TUC/Labour Party initiative to redirect some of the huge assets of the pension funds towards projects aimed at fostering investment in industry and increasing employment. The TUC/Labour Party liaison committee produced a document which developed the idea further with the proposal that pension fund assets should be directed towards investment priorities previously detailed by a new Department of Economic and Industrial Planning. However TUC criticism of the pension fund movement goes much further and attacks the poor standards of accountability in the movement, while blaming the funds; for many of the problems caused by the lack of investment in British industry. Although the debate will remain largely academic while the Conservatives are in power there are signs that the pension fund movement is taking note of shifting opinion about its role in economic and City life. The most dramatic example of this has been seen at the National Coal Board Pension Fund. Since Mr Arthur Scargill succeeded Mr Joe Gormley

(now Lord Gormley) as president of the National Union of Mineworkers, the union leadership has taken a much more active role in influencing the actions of the pension fund managers. In his first year as trustee of the fund Mr Scargill refused to accept its business plan. In particular he refused to allow the fund to go ahead with proposed investments in overseas securities and property. Questions were also raised about investments in activities such as the oil industry, which competed with coal production. The changing mood has also led to occasional arm twisting by the Bank of England in an attempt to arrange finance for manufacturing companies in trouble. As a consequence, fund managers were involved in arranging a capital reconstruction which allowed Johnson & Firth Brown, the Sheffield engineering group, to become involved in setting up Sheffield Forgemasters, a joint venture company with the British Steel Corporation. The institutions were involved again when Sir Francis Tombs was appointed chairman of Turner & Newall, the troubled asbestos group, last year. The fund managers have also demonstrated their sense of social responsibility by urging directors of Marks & Spencer to give details of cheap housing rental arranged for executives. Institutional pressure was also brought to bear when Associated Communications Corporation and Carrington Viyella, the textiles company, looked set to pay record golden handshakes to outgoing chief executives. Previously fund managers have argued that they lacked the knowledge of industry necessary to involve themselves more closely with day-to-day decisions. Managers have also argued that their primary duty is to achieve the highest possible return on the asset which they control on behalf of fund members. If the pressure to change the emphasis of their investment and to become more involved in the running of companies continues, then the result will almost certainly be a demand from managers for a change in the rules which govern their activities.

Andrew Cornelius

What's best for the self employed

continued from page 11

Rate of return, tax efficiency, and security of investment are not the only matters to be considered. Other possible advantages may include relief on the cash-flow of a partnership, the encouragement of automatic retirement and advancement of partners, financial economy, and benefits for dependants. The overriding criteria should however be simplicity. It is almost certain that the tax and fiscal regime surrounding the self-employed will be very different from today in 10 years' time and flexibility to change the contractual terms of a policy is important. In summary, therefore, advantages of self-employed schemes include: no effect on benefits by changing job, free choice of investment (within limits), improved returns on contributions, and possibly higher benefits at the end of the day, no limits on benefits (other than by the amount of pension that the contributions can buy) and freedom of choice of scheme. There are, however, disadvantages: limits on contributions (compared with the limits on benefits of company schemes), uncertainty of benefits (compared with guaranteed benefits of many company schemes (and government or public sector schemes), time spent choosing policies, and uncertainty of Revenue practice. The distinction which has emerged since 1956 in the method of provision between the self-employed, nonetheless, seems to be becoming blurred. It is likely that the present Revenue controls on benefits will continue. But it is also likely that the number of employed people seeking pensions under the taxation provisions of the self-employed will increase.

Robin Ellison

Author of Pensions for Partners published by Oyc Longman.
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HALIFAX PENSION PLUS PLAN

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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Sandy McLachlan

M & S growth fails to buoy shares

Marks and Spencer Year to 31.3.83. Pretax profit, £239.3m (£222.1m). Stated earnings, 10.3p (9.2p). Turnover, £2,505.5m (£2,196.7m). Net dividend, 3.25p making 5.1p (4.6p). Share price 203p down 13p Yield 3.4%.



If the market appeared to be disappointed with the yearly profit figures of Marks and Spencers, dozen of British retailing, it was because a hoped-for scrip issue failed to materialize. It was this, not the figures that caused the shares to drop 13p. Pretax profits - up nearly 8 per cent at £239.3m were in the middle of forecasts.

cent of which was attributable to the increase in staff. Employees were given a 9 per cent pay rise last year. The group no doubt expects higher volume sales this year to compensate for the increase in the cost base.

shots still in its locker it is one that could backfire on it quite dramatically. Asset values are only of any real value in a break-up situation - and that is what Tilling says it is not going to do, and accuses BTR of intending to do: at least to a degree.

Add to that claim by Marks and Spencer that the extra week of trading in the comparable period, which was for 53 weeks rather than this time's 52 weeks, was worth £10m on profits, and the underlying increase in returns of nearly 13 per cent looks healthy.

Its own rate of retail price inflation is 0.5 per cent below official national averages. Volume sales rose by 11 per cent in the second half, compared with 10 per cent in the first.

If Lord Cockfield does not oblige Tilling, BTR is going to have to come up with some compelling answer to the Tilling document. It cannot win at the current bid price, with the 180p cash alternative valuing Tilling on a prospective p/e of 8.3.

A reduced funding requirement for pensions boosted profits by £2.3m and a weak pound made returns from the Continent and Canada look better than they did in local currency.

While remaining vulnerable to any general downturn in share prices, Marks and Spencer shares continue to represent solid value.

What it can do is raise its offer by a fairly substantial amount, sit back, and wait for anything further that Tilling can offer. A jump to about 220p should be enough to exhaust Tilling's defensive reserves, allowing BTR to take the day with a further small - or at least relatively small - increase.

The company has reduced pension funding from 15.5 per cent of wages to 14 per cent as a result of an actual valuation which revealed a substantial surplus in the fund. This surplus has been shared between the company, which has reduced its contribution, and employees who will receive better benefits as a result.

Smith St Aubyn, one of the smaller houses which had a calamitous year in the gilt market in 1981-82, has turned in a creditable performance. It has reported disclosed profits of £1.42m struck after a hefty

balance sheet shows 50 per cent rise to £2.35bn and disclosed shareholders' funds are up from £32m to £45m. Meanwhile, Smith St Aubyn's balance sheet is up a more modest 15 per cent to £420m and disclosed shareholders' funds ahead from £8.6m to £9.1m. However, the final dividend, omitted at the previous year-end, has been partially restored.

Marks is holding firm to its policy of giving employees a share in the company's prosperity. The wage bill last year rose by 18 per cent, only 6 per

cent of which was attributable to the increase in staff. Employees were given a 9 per cent pay rise last year. The group no doubt expects higher volume sales this year to compensate for the increase in the cost base.

What it can do is raise its offer by a fairly substantial amount, sit back, and wait for anything further that Tilling can offer. A jump to about 220p should be enough to exhaust Tilling's defensive reserves, allowing BTR to take the day with a further small - or at least relatively small - increase.

International Income Property

Investors are being invited to take their chance in the boom and bust US real estate market by an Australian property development subsidiary run by an expatriate Dutchman Mr Gerard Dusseldorp through a 2m share offering of International Income Property Inc. Half the shares will be placed with institutions and the remainder offered for sale at 587p per share.

IIP is a spin-off from Lead Lease, the Australian-based property development group. The 8.6 per cent yield should prove attractive to private investors as standard United Kingdom property shares yield an average 4 to 5 per cent. Under the present laws both here and in the US, income is taxed at 15 per cent in the US and a further 15 per cent is levied on the net amount in Britain. There are also capital gains advantages.

Shareholders are receiving a 27 per cent rise in dividends and one-for-one scrip issue is also proposed. The year-end Net final dividend 2p, making 3.5p (4.5p). Share price 45p, down 3p. Yield 11.1%. Dividend payable 16.8.83.

Gerrard & National Year to 5.4.83. After tax profit £14.2m (£4.31m). Net final dividend 14p, making 20p (15.75p). Share price 392p, down 2p. Yield 7.3%. Dividend payable June 1983.

P&O, Britain's largest shipping company, which yesterday reported 18 per cent decline in pretax profits to £33.5m for 1982, has started 1983 on an equally gloomy note. Mr Oliver Brooks, managing director, said that the group's cruise, liquefied gas containers and the ferries had all started the year badly. Shareholders will have to wait for the second half for any signs of improvement from the traditionally stronger summer season for cruises and ferries and also the Bovis construction business. But the market expected as much and the shares fell just 1p to 149p.

Brighter outlook at T&N

Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of Turner and Newall, said at yesterday's annual meeting that results for the first half of 1983 would show a substantial improvement over 1982, but would include the cost of remedial measures.



other sites to increase productivity. In addition, stocks were being reduced temporarily at the expense of manufacturing efficiency, and pricing policies were being examined.

He expected the second half to show a further improvement. The group was now trading well within its borrowing facilities. The company's present net bank borrowings for the United Kingdom and overseas were £46m and £28m respectively. Total group borrowings were £92m, a reduction of £57m since the year end. This produced a group gearing figure of 34 per cent (55 per cent at December 31, 1982).

Attention was directed to improving operations at home and overseas. At home the company had decided to close sites at Hemel Hempstead, Herts, and Chingford, Essex, and reduce numbers at some

Overseas the board was studying unsatisfactory trading results in France, Spain, and Italy. It would close the operation in Korea at a substantial loss, for which a provision was made last year. Domestic business activity showed little sign of permanent improvement although the pound's competitive exchange rate had improved exports in several areas. In the US there were signs of economic improvement which the board hoped would quickly be seen in Britain.

The chairman expected a further fall in borrowings, accompanied by higher manufacturing efficiency, particularly in the British companies.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, SOYABEAN MEAL, INTERNATIONAL, LONDON GOLD FUTURES, GRAIN, MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES, RUBBER, COFFEE, COCOA, SUGAR, and WOOL. Includes columns for 'Y'day's', 'Previous', and 'Futures'.

CHARTERHOUSE

The Charterhouse Group plc 1982

Mr Nigel Mobbs reports

The Group

1982 was a year of consolidation and further progress following the structural changes and rationalisation which occurred in 1980 and 1981. The company continued to develop as an investment and banking group making new investments and several realisations. The bank, Charterhouse Japhet, masterminded the acquisition of F W Woolworth by a consortium of investment institutions, thereby much enhancing its reputation.

Once again Charterhouse benefited from the spread of its investments, both internationally and by sector.

Results

Group profit before taxation increased to £22.9 million while profit after taxation increased by 38 per cent to £15.1 million. The improvement in the taxation charge from 50 per cent in 1981 to 29 per cent resulted from the continuing ability to make use of available allowances and the elimination in part of the very high impost on oil activities.

Dividend

The Directors recommend a final dividend of 3.25 pence per ordinary share which, when aggregated with the interim payment, amounts to 5.175 pence for the year.

Table showing Results in brief for 1982 and 1981. Columns include Capital employed, Shareholders' funds, Profit before taxation, Profit after taxation before extraordinary items, Retained profit for the year, Earnings per ordinary share, and Dividends per ordinary share.

Banking

The profit of the bank, Charterhouse Japhet, increased encouragingly despite the enormous pressures on the international banking system and the inevitable need for provisions against both United Kingdom and foreign debt. The enlarged capital base of the bank provides splendid opportunities but profits are inevitably affected by falling interest rates and the relative prosperity of customers.

Future success will depend upon building on the undoubted internal strengths which exist and considerable progress is being made in the development of new product areas. Of particular interest at present is cable and satellite television and the interactive communication possibilities stemming from this challenging new development.

Investments

Development capital activities again made a substantial contribution, resulting mainly from the continuing success of operations in the United States.

The harsh economic climate has, perhaps surprisingly, produced many favourable investment opportunities for the careful investor. £44 million was invested in 28 companies despite considerably increased competition especially in the area of development capital. Substantial investments were made in Coloroll, a successful wallcoverings manufacturer, and in P J Burke, civil engineering contractors. Promising new investments were added to our American portfolio and there was further investment in both France and Canada.

The major divestment of the year was the reduction of our 48.4 per cent stake in Charterhouse Petroleum to 19.5 per cent.

The Future

Falling interest rates and lower inflation rates, coupled with signs of increasing consumer demand and improving business confidence, seem to indicate the beginnings of economic recovery. The Charterhouse Business Forecast predicts a significant improvement in prospects for 1983 and 1984.

Against this background I am hopeful that the group's range of interests will continue to prosper and that I will be reporting favourably upon the group's performance in 1983.

Nigel Mobbs Chairman

Copies of the Annual Report of The Charterhouse Group plc are available from: Group Communications Department, 25 Milk Street, London EC2V 8JE. Telephone 01-606 7070.

Banks to lend Turkey £126m

Ankara (Reuter) - A group of 12 foreign banks will shortly extend a \$200m (£126m) medium term loan to Turkey, central bank officials said yesterday.

Morgan Guaranty Trust, of New York, has been coordinating the loan. The central bank officials said the bank group includes Citibank, Chase Manhattan Bank, Barclays Bank International, National Bank of Kuwait and Bank of Tokyo.

Turkey - with total debt at about \$206m - is forecasting a current account balance of payments deficit of \$575m this year.

Advertisement for International Income Property Inc. featuring the company logo, 'Offer and Placing by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of International Income Property Inc. (Incorporated under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, USA) of 2,000,000 Shares of Common Stock of par value \$0.1 at 587p per share payable in full on application of which 1,000,000 shares will be offered to the public and 1,000,000 shares will be placed. The Prospectus (on the terms of which alone applications will be considered) is to be published today in full in the Financial Times and the Daily Telegraph. Copies of the Prospectus are available and may be obtained from: S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., 30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB. Cazesove & Co., 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN.

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APPOINTMENTS

Barclays post for bank chief

Mr T N Risk, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, has been additionally appointed a director of Barclays Bank and Mr R. E. Harrow has been made a director of Barclays Bank International.

Bailey Morris, in Washington, examines the President's debate with Congress

As the United States Senate embarks this week on what is bound to be yet another long and turbulent debate on President Reagan's budget, it is important to remember what this unfinished economic saga is all about.

The single most important issue generating worldwide concern over Mr Reagan's budget is not the massive military build-up, or the steep cuts in programmes for the poor, or the proposed tax cuts, or even the huge size of the projected federal deficits.

None of these, taken alone, ranks in importance with that of high interest rates. This is one of the topics which is expected to consume heads of state at the coming Williamsburg economic summit.

It is now generally agreed, among European officials, members of the US Congress, private economists and others, that high real interest rates can either slow to a crawl, or abort altogether, the fledgling American recovery.

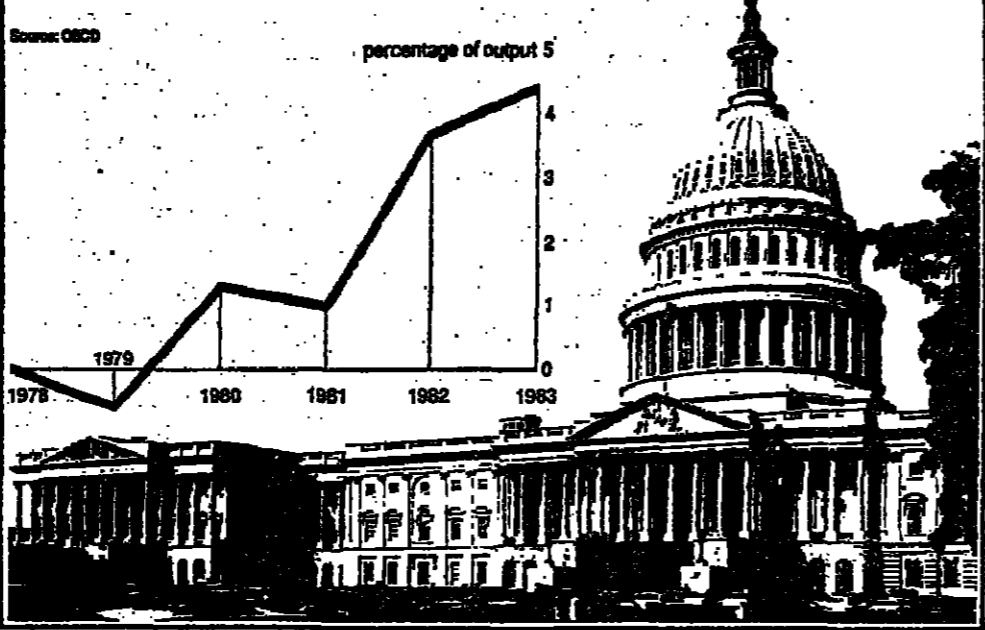
And high real interest rates are inexorably linked to Mr Reagan's budget because of the huge federal deficits it projects. Again, it is generally agreed that if the US Treasury must continue to borrow big sums to finance deficits of \$200bn and above, money will remain tight, interest rates will stay high, and American businesses will be hard-pressed to finance expansion.

Attacking the deficits, then, is the obvious solution to this complex, often encountered, problem. There are sharp differences, however, over how best to accomplish this and it is this political tension which adds surprising twists and injects personal dilemmas into a budget saga which could only be set in America.

Consider the latest chapter in this unfolding drama. Senate Republicans, having soundly rejected Mr Reagan's 1984 budget priorities, are now fighting among themselves on a compromise version which they are under great pressure to complete.

The success or failure of this delicate inter-party manoeuvring rests largely on the shoulders of Mr Peter Domenici, the Republican New Mexico senator who sits on a political "hot seat" as chairman of the Senate budget committee.

THE RISING US BUDGET DEFICIT



Why Reagan's budget saga is so crucial for the rest of us

half the President's arms programme, raised taxes and provided for fewer cuts than were requested in domestic programmes.

This action was widely regarded as the first splintering of the solid Republican ranks in the Senate and another important sign that President Reagan was losing control of Congress.

The Senate Republicans voted against the President only after repeated attempts to force him to offer a compromise of

and big increases for the Pentagon. And so there was a committee revolt.

Predictably, the White House reacted negatively and began applying subtle political pressure, pointing out that Republican unity is an important ingredient for success in forthcoming elections.

Now Mr Domenici is frantically trying to put together another version of the spending proposal in a series of whirlwind meetings at the White House and in Congress which are intended to mediate strong and increasingly intransigent positions on both sides of the party.

The best compromise Mr Domenici has been able to reach is one which calls for even more spending for defence than his own committee approved, slightly less spending for domestic programmes and no action at all on the crucial question of tax increases.

Deficits projected under this proposal are in the high \$200bn range for 1984 and would rise even higher in subsequent years, which are more important to the planning of financial markets.

It is by no means certain that a growing number of disgruntled senators will pass this version of the Republican budget when it comes to a vote on the floor.

The matter is complicated by the fact that House Democrats have already agreed on their own version of the budget which was passed earlier in a surprising display of unanimity within the opposition party. It calls for steep cuts in defence spending, more money for

social programmes, sizable increases and a deficit of about \$180 bn in 1984, dropping to \$135 bn by 1986.

Once the Senate acts, leaders from both houses will meet to resolve their differences and agree on budget legislation to be sent to the President. This could occur as early as next week under the timetable envisaged by congressional leaders.

Whether or not Mr Domenici will be able to pull it off in face-saving fashion without damaging his own political prospects is yet to be seen.

Even if he does, however, and the Senate passes a budget resolution and a joint fiscal package is agreed, the saga is still likely to continue.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world is watching to see if Congress and the Administration are finally going to agree on reasonable fiscal policy that will sustain a long-term recovery and bring interest rates down.

Herr Karl Otto Pohl, president of the West German central bank, said recently, for example, that the key to the currency problems caused by the high dollar is lower interest rates which will only occur if federal budget deficits are reduced.

The unresolved world debt crisis is another reason why western leaders are so anxious that the Reagan Administration adopt a workable fiscal policy which will bring interest rates down.

For each 1 per cent drop in interest rates, there is a reduction of an estimated \$4 bn in debt of the developing world, Herr Pohl said.

And so the pressure this week is on Senate Republicans, who must heal the rifts within their own party in order to pass a spending proposal they can take to the joint House-Senate conference.

Because increased taxes are now thought to be the key to lowering budget deficits, especially in the important years beyond 1984, financial markets are looking for action that will result in lower deficits, not so much in 1984 but in 1985 and 1986 when the capital requirements of corporate America will be greater.

Mr Reagan, however, has stated emphatically that he will not give up his tax cuts planned for July and he is opposed in principle to any significant tax increases.

If House and Senate agree, as is thought likely, on a compromise budget resolution which calls for selected tax increases of up to 515 bn in the next year, yet another confrontation could take place.

Even though Mr Reagan cannot veto the budget resolution, he does have the power to veto the tax legislation that must be passed to carry out this Congressional directive. If this occurs, all players move back to square one and the saga must be rewritten again - to the consternation of the rest of the world.

High interest rates could abort the fledgling US recovery

Mr G P Blomfield has been appointed a director of Seacombe Marshall & Campion.

A White House veto would return all players to square one

Mr Peter Miles has succeeded Mr Maurice Hetherington as managing director of David Brown Tractors.

Financial notebook Shooting down the big bank JRs

Our sober clearing bankers are at present giving more than a passing imitation of the television soap opera Dallas. The cause of the trouble lies in the bankers' leaked report of proposals on a point of sale system. As the system may be central to the way we make payments in the future, it is worth examining the background to the proposals and then looking at how the bankers seem to have got it completely wrong. As usual the tale is a mixture of technical skill and political naivete.

The concept is deceptively simple. The customer will be issued with a magnetically striped plastic card. Large retailers and organisations like British Rail will have special terminals connected to a national point of sale network. When the customer wants to pay for something his card is "swiped" through the retailer's terminal, the amount is entered and the customer enters his own Pin (personal identification number). In a matter of seconds the transaction is checked by the bank which issues the card and the payment is authorised.

One essential feature of the system is that it is "on-line". This means that the identification of the customer is checked via his Pin number, the intended payment is matched against his bank balance and the accounts of customer and retailer are respectively debited and credited.

There are two principal attractions of this system. The first is that it eliminates the paper involved with the current cheque based system and the second is that the use of a Pin number makes the payment far more secure than the current cheque guarantee card.

At first sight, therefore the point of sale system has a lot of attraction to bankers. But one immediate problem is that the major clearers are by no means agreed in their approach.

Barclays, the principal object, would like to build on recent developments in credit card operations. In particular its experts believe that its widely advertised authorization telephones could form the

basis of an effective point of sale system. The argument against the Barclays position is that as it is not a full on-line system, there will be little cost saving.

Behind these arguments, however, there is a potentially far more serious debate going on. This revolves round the question of ownership and it is here that the bankers seem to have gone badly wrong. The report suggests three classes of users:

Principal members who would be owners and users and would have a capital stake in the project. Associate members who would be users, but not owners and who have contributed loan capital to the project. Agency members who are users, but are not principal or associate members and have not contributed capital in any form.

In practice, the principal members will be the four major clearers plus Williams and Glyn's. Falling into the second category would be other banks such as TSB. Building societies would fall into the third category, agency members. The rub is that they have to be sponsored by a principal or associate member and before they do this the sponsor must be satisfied with the creditworthiness, technical standards, management capability and control procedures of the proposed agency member.

In short, the banks have come up with proposals on ownership which read like the membership requirements of an exclusive London club. The banks cannot exclude members completely as they would be in trouble from the Office of Fair Trading, but they are going to make it as difficult as possible for them to enter the money transmission field.

One result of this latest saga from Lombard Street may well be to hasten the end of the major clearers' control of the money transmission system. In trying to retain complete control over the central point of sale system, the big five may have finally pushed their luck too far.

Robert White

Table with multiple columns containing financial data, including 'Authorized Units & Insurance Funds' and various company names and figures.

Henderson rises 61 pc

By Andrew Cornelius
P. C. Henderson year to 26.2.83. Pretax profit, £3.9m (£2.4m). Stated earnings, 33.8p (31.1p). Turnover, £50m (£31.1m). Net final dividend, 8p making 12p (10p). Share price, 498p up 44p. Yield 3.4%
 against £2.4m the previous year. On a turnover of £50m compared with £31.1m.
 The board is recommending an increased final dividend of

8p net, making 12p for the year against 10p last year to help boost City enthusiasm for Henderson shares which rose by 44p to 498p.
 Tight control of stocks and working capital by the company's eight-strong central management team also helped contribute towards a positive cash flow of £2.5m during the year. This was achieved despite funding part of the acquisition of the Normand Electrical business and CIC security

Gerrard & National PLC

Results for the year ended 5th April 1983

	1983	1982
Profit for the year	£14,205m	£4,311m
Total cost of Dividends	£2,992m	£2,356m
Disclosed Shareholders' Funds	£45,347m	£32,134m
Total Assets	£2,349,012m	£1,564,578m

* **Group Profit for the Year.** Group profit after providing for taxation, minority interests and a transfer to Inner Reserves amounted to £14,205,000 (1982: £4,311,000).

* **Dividend.** It is proposed that a final dividend of 14p (1982: 10.75p) be paid on each Ordinary Share of 25p. When added to the Interim Dividend already paid of 6p (1982: 5p) this makes a total of 20p (1982: 15.75p) an increase of 27%. The proposed dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 25p each will be paid to Shareholders on the register at the close of business on the 20th May 1983.

* **Share Issue.** It is proposed that a scrip issue be made on the basis of one Ordinary Share for each Ordinary Share held. The scrip issue will be capitalised from the whole of the amounts standing to the credit of the capital redemption reserve fund and the share premium account and £1,765,548 from the general reserve to which £2,000,000 has been credited from inner reserves for the specific purpose of this capitalisation.

* **Disclosed Shareholders' Funds.** The Group's Disclosed Shareholders' Funds stand at £45.35 million compared with £32.13 million last year.

* **Total Assets.** The Total Assets of the Group (excluding bills subject to repurchase arrangements) amount to £2,349,011 million compared with £1,564,6 million in 1982.

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WALL STREET

Drugstore chain stocks tipped for the top

New York (NYT) - While investors ponder a possible correction in stock prices, the Value Line investment survey has singled out a rather mundane-sounding group that has fared superbly and is considered likely to continue its winning ways: the chain drugstore group.

In recent months, chain drugstore issues have been market favourites and some of them sold at record prices.

Despite the price rises, analysts said the drugstore stocks would continue moving higher during the months ahead, bolstered by higher earnings.

Investors looking for drugstore equities to outrun the market average can choose from top-rated Adams Drug, Peoples Drug and Thrift Corporation. All the other chains, except Jack Eckerd, are ranked above average for year-ahead performance.

AMF Inc	39 1/2	Petrol Retail	29 1/2	Petrol Retail	29 1/2	Placid	25 1/2
Allied Chem	40 1/2	Pharm Corp	30 1/2	Pharm Corp	30 1/2	Pharm Corp	30 1/2
Allied Stores	41 1/2	Pharm Corp	31 1/2	Pharm Corp	31 1/2	Pharm Corp	31 1/2
Alco	42 1/2	Pharm Corp	32 1/2	Pharm Corp	32 1/2	Pharm Corp	32 1/2
Alcoa Inc	43 1/2	Pharm Corp	33 1/2	Pharm Corp	33 1/2	Pharm Corp	33 1/2
Am Rad Inc	44 1/2	Pharm Corp	34 1/2	Pharm Corp	34 1/2	Pharm Corp	34 1/2
Am Rad Inc	45 1/2	Pharm Corp	35 1/2	Pharm Corp	35 1/2	Pharm Corp	35 1/2
Am Rad Inc	46 1/2	Pharm Corp	36 1/2	Pharm Corp	36 1/2	Pharm Corp	36 1/2
Am Rad Inc	47 1/2	Pharm Corp	37 1/2	Pharm Corp	37 1/2	Pharm Corp	37 1/2
Am Rad Inc	48 1/2	Pharm Corp	38 1/2	Pharm Corp	38 1/2	Pharm Corp	38 1/2
Am Rad Inc	49 1/2	Pharm Corp	39 1/2	Pharm Corp	39 1/2	Pharm Corp	39 1/2

W German jobless total falls

Bonn (Reuters) - Government optimism that an economic recovery is under way in West Germany was boosted yesterday by official figures showing a sharp fall in unemployment last month and improved new industrial orders.

Unemployment dropped by 133,000 to 2.25 million - 9.2 per cent of the workforce - in April, the Federal Labour Office reported.

The figures were announced as Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who campaigned in March's General Election under the slogan "Vote for the upturn", told Parliament: "The upturn has started."

Herr Joseph Stiegl, Labour Office president, said that after seasonal adjustments the underlying trend in the jobless figures was still moving upwards but more slowly than in the previous month.

West German industry's new orders in March rose by one per cent over the previous month, domestic demand leading the way with a two per cent growth rate, the economics ministry said.

Industry feared the scheme would make companies place orders ahead of schedule to qualify for the bonus, after which demand would drop off sharply.

The economics ministry also reported that industrial production in March remained steady.

£15m on Falkland work

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The Crown Agents is handling £15m of work for the Falkland Islands, one of its oldest clients, to help towards repairing war damage and reconstruction.

Originally set up to act as purchasing agent in this country for Britain's old colonies, the Crown Agents have handled more than 200 orders worth £7.23m for prefab houses and equipment in the Falklands and is also working on a £5.5m contract to repair roads in the islands.

Sir Sidney Eburne, senior Crown Agent, said yesterday that the Agents would also be carrying out studies on the power and water systems.

The annual report of the Crown Agents, published yesterday, shows a drop in the surplus before interest and tax from £2.28m in 1981 to £1.24m last year. After paying £1.28m interest on loan capital to the

Government, there was a pretax loss of £39,000.

Under the Crown Agents Act, the body has to break even taking one year with another. Although revenue reserves have fallen from £3.8m to £2.4m, this was partly due to a once-off £1m payment to the Government from revenue reserve.

At the end of the year the Crown Agents debt to the Government has been reduced to just over £20m.

In recent years the Crown Agents, which lost more than £200m in the mid-1970s through ill-advised property deals, have been substantially reorganized and now operate in a more commercial fashion.

Traditionally, much of its work has been related to United Kingdom aid or has been funded by governments or public bodies in the developing countries, for whom the Crown Agents provide technical advice

and training and act as a procurement agent.

With a larger proportion of Britain's overseas aid being channelled through multilateral agencies and with developing countries increasingly short of cash, the Crown Agents have directed attention to marketing their services and administering programmes for multilateral agencies.

About 70 per cent of the orders placed by the Crown Agents still go to companies in Britain. However, of last year's total procurement of £140m, about £52m was related to United Kingdom aid, about £50m was funded directly by customers and the rest related to assistance from multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and other bodies.

The reorganization of the Crown Agents over the past three years has led to a big reduction in staff from 2,200 to about 1,300.



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinedal, Byfogdegatan 2, Göteborg, Sweden, at 3.30 p.m. on Monday 30 May, 1983.

Agenda

Ordinary general meeting business will be transacted in accordance with Swedish law and Articles of Association.

A proposal put by one of the shareholders for a change in the Articles is also on the Agenda. This involves equal voting rights for all AB SKF shares and the formation of an election committee to put forward candidate names for the Company's Board of Directors and Auditors.

Right to attend

For the right to participate in the meeting, shareholders must notify the Board, at the Company's address in Göteborg, before noon on Wednesday 25 May, preferably in writing, of their intention to attend, giving details of name, address, telephone and shareholding. They must also be recorded in the shareholders register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB, Box 7444, S-10391 Stockholm) by Friday 20 May.

Shareholders with holdings registered in banks or other authorized depositaries must temporarily re-register these in their own name by Friday 20 May to be able to participate in the Annual General Meeting.

Payment of dividends

The Board will recommend that shareholders with holdings in the VPC AB records on 2 June be entitled to receive dividends for 1982. Subject to this date being accepted by the Annual General Meeting, it is expected that the Securities Register Centre will send out notice of payment to recorded shareholders and listed depositaries on 9 June.

Proxy forms are available from A/B SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel: (31) 372755 & 371000

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any shares.

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(Incorporated with limited liability in the State of Texas in the United States of America)

Authorized 300,000,000 Common Shares of U.S. \$0.50 par value
 Issued and reserved for issue at 4th May, 1983 131,658,909
 *including 37,439,694 shares reserved for issue

American General Corporation is a financial services company whose principal businesses are life and property-liability insurance. The company also offers consumer finance, real estate management and mortgage banking services. American General Corporation's subsidiary in the United Kingdom is

Albany Life Assurance Company Limited.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List all the 131,658,909 Common Shares of American General Corporation issued and reserved for issue.

Particulars relating to American General Corporation are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 27th May, 1983 from:

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 22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
 30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB

Rowe & Pitman
 City-Gate House,
 39-45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA

5th May, 1983.

JOHN I. JACOBS PLC

Steps to improve future trading position

The Annual General Meeting of John I. Jacobs PLC will be held on 26th May, 1983 in London. The following is a summary of the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Jacobs:

Once again the shipping community suffered another extremely difficult year. World trade was very sluggish and as a result of that, ocean bulk trades, particularly the carriage of ore, coal and oil, were becalmed in the doldrums. In such conditions it is no wonder that our trading results turned out to be far from satisfactory and indeed to have actually produced a loss. We have, however, been in the business for very many years and although there is no present sign of an upturn in the markets in which we work, I think we are justified in believing that the tide will eventually turn. We shall, therefore, continue to do our best to retain a share of what business is presently available and so order our affairs to be ready to fully participate when better times return. Our absolute priority for this year will be to do all we can to keep the lid on the pot of expenses and thus avoid having to close down any part of our business. To this end we have made some major alterations to our way of working. Principally we have moved our offices from 19, Great Winchester Street, EC2 where we operated on six floors to 5, Devonshire Square, EC2 where we now work more efficiently on one floor in considerably less square footage than we had before and with much lower overhead costs than at the old office. Since vacating Great Winchester Street, where we owned the freehold, we have marketed the building and I am glad to say that we were able to agree a sale at the very satisfactory figure of £4,650,000.

New Coasting Vessel Ordered.

Our comparatively small shipowning operation is going well, the two river launches continue to give satisfaction both to us and to their operators. The coasting vessel that I mentioned last year was duly delivered on time by her builders and is now operating on her long term charter. In conjunction with Jacobs & Tenvig we have now ordered another such vessel, again from the Yorkshire Dry Dock Company, for delivery at the end of the year and satisfactory long term employment has again been arranged. Since the 31st December, the "Silvermerlin's" long term charter, which was due to end in October next anyway, was terminated and the vessel was sold to a third party. An arrangement which, in the circumstances, suited all parties.

We shall, of course, continue to search for fresh shipping opportunities but in present markets much patience and more is required before satisfactory business may be found and concluded.

As suggested at the commencement of this statement our business has languished with the slackness of international trading and the resulting low levels of bulk freight markets. Nevertheless it has not been all gloom. In the case of our Sale and Purchase Department especially, a worthwhile degree of success was recorded throughout the year.

Our listed investments, which still consisted largely of short dated government stocks, performed a good deal better during 1982 than in the previous year. I believe it is likely that these holdings will perform quite well for us through 1983.

I now come to a matter of considerable special interest to us all, namely our idea to bring about a reduction in our capital. After exhaustive enquiries by top legal and accountancy advisers, we are satisfied that there is no realistic way in which the change to our capital structure we had in mind can be made without the distribution to stockholders being regarded as one of income, producing a liability for individuals to income tax rather than capital gains tax and for the company to advance corporation tax. As I warned in earlier statements it might, such an outcome to our enquiries has now ruled out any further progress in this direction. The cash resources which, under a different decision would have been paid out, will now have to be utilised to the very best advantage to enable us, even in these dire days for shipping, to pay maximum dividends. This, in turn should maintain and indeed further improve the quoted price of our stock.

Higher Dividend Forecast

In our changed circumstances following the successful sale of our building, it is extremely unlikely that, short of some quite unforeseeable catastrophe, when 1983 has ended we shall not be recommending an increase in the rate of dividend on those results over what we are suggesting for approval for the twelve months here under review.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10 %
Barclays	10 %
BCCI	10 %
Consolidated Crds	10 %
C. Hoare & Co	10 %
Lloyds Bank	10 %
Midland Bank	10 %
Nat Westminster	10 %
TSB	10 %
Williams & Glyn's	10 %

* Six months on sums of under £10,000, 6 1/4% £10,000 up to £50,000, 7% £50,000 and over, 6 1/2%.

From the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Peter Grant.

Total funds exceed £2bn. In a remarkable year of growth, despite recession, the Sun Life Group again attained new records... whilst our total funds reached £1bn, in 1978, 168 years after we commenced business as a life office, just four years later this figure has more than doubled to £2.2 billion... our total new premium income was above last year's performance at £110 million.

Importance of Commission Agreement... we remain convinced that a widely supported Commissions Agreement is necessary for the health of our industry... substantially increased bonuses... lower rates of interest resulted in



exceptional capital appreciation in our investment portfolio. This enabled us to increase substantially the rates of terminal bonus... and to pay a specially increased cash bonus on our with profits group pension business." Dividend up 21.8%... a total of 13.4p per share... represents a 21.8% increase over the 1981 dividend... Prosperous future... whatever the problems the future brings, I am confident that the Group has the skills and the resources to cope and prosper.

For a copy of the 1982 Report & Accounts of one of the country's most successful life offices, contact W.J. Amos, Sun Life Assurance Society plc, 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU. 01-606 7788.



A major force in British Life

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COMPANY NEWS
IN BRIEF

● Hampton Gold Mining has acquired the business and assets of Temple Farm Coal for £3.25m cash. Temple Farm is a substantial Scottish licensed coal-mining business which operates some 10 miles south of Edinburgh. The business will now trade under the name Binkbonny Coal, as a subsidiary of Hampton.

● London United Investments reports that Lazard Bros has underwritten and sub-underwritten is now in progress for a one-for-three rights issue of 2.94m shares of 20p each at 175p a share to raise about £4.8m net of expenses. The proceeds will be applied in subscribing for new shares in LUI's fully owned offshoot, Wajbrook Insurance.

Warford Investments
Year to 25.12.82
Pretax profit, £3.83m (£3.31m).
Stated earnings 21.79p (23.8p).
Turnover, £24.45m (£24.05m).
Net dividend, 12.5p (12p).
Share price, 340p, down 33p. Yield (gross): 5.25.

John Folkes Helpo
Year to 1.12.82
Pretax profit, £1m (£742,000).
Stated earnings, 1.43p (loss, 2.0p).
Turnover, £26.41m (£28.01m).
Net dividend, 1.25p (1.25p).
Share price, 18p down 2½. Yield (gross): 8.92.

Wemyss Investment Trust
Half-year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit, £282,000 (£247,000).
Stated earnings, 9.5p (9.5p).
Net interim dividend, 7.0p (7.0p).

Murdin and Peacock
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £11.32m (£10.08m).
Stated earnings 11.4p (11.0p).
Turnover, £462.5m (£400.34m).
Net dividend, 3.12p (2.7p).
Share price, 74p, down 2p. Yield (gross): 2.56.
Dividend payable on 8.7.83.

John Mowlem
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £8.5m (£7.8m).
Stated earnings, 28.3p (34.5p).
Turnover, £228m (£271m).
Net dividend, 15.0p (13.7p).
Share price, 246p, up 2p. Yield (gross): 8.71.
Dividend payable on 1.7.83.

Central & Sheerwood
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £41,000 (£154,000 restated).
Stated earnings, (loss), 1.04p (loss, 0.64p).
Turnover, £94.04m (£94.79m).
Net dividend, 0.3p (1.06p).
Share price, 11½ p, down ½ p. Yield (gross): 3.72.

Millets Leisure Shops
Year to 31.1.83
Pretax profit, £867,000 (£915,000).
Stated earnings, 11.9p (10.7p).
Turnover, £18.34m (£17.74m).
Net dividend, 6.95p (6.95p).
Share price, 130p, up 5p. Yield (gross): 7.63.
Dividend payable on 21.7.83.

Sotheby's decision creates more merger confusion

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

The Government's policy over mergers has been unclear for some years but since Lord Cockfield has been Secretary of State for Trade the confusion has mounted.

The latest surprise is Lord Cockfield's decision to ignore the recommendation of Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, that the bid by the American-based GFI Knoll International for Sotheby's, the fine art auctioneers, should not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.



Cockfield: change of policy could be on way.

Lord Cockfield justifies his decision by saying that the bid raises an issue of public interest because of London's position as the centre of the fine art market and Sotheby's position in that market. Certainly, it's not a clear monopoly problem.

His action could ruffle American feathers as much the remaining more than a year ago, by the Monopolies Commission of a bid for Davy International from Enserch Corporation, the Texas-based oil production and services group. That happened at a time when UK companies were buying up American interests in swaths.

But the Trade Department in December had already made history in a surprising way by overturning the Monopolies Commission recommendation over the proposed takeover by

been taken by Mr Peter Roes, the Minister for Trade.

The decision was to say the least, controversial. There were, perhaps, predictable Opposition charges in the House of Commons about the Government caving into City interests, and Lord Cockfield was accused of a lack of candour.

There have been other controversial decisions over the past year, including some from the commission, which have left industry bemused about what the Government really wants. The last statement on government policy on mergers was made in 1980 by Mr John Nott, who was Trade Secretary. That pointed to a more sceptical look at conglomerate mergers.

Lord Cockfield now has on his desk an internal Whitehall review of merger policy. It is believed to suggest that the Government should consider giving more explanations of its position when it either accepts or rejects advice.

It is also believed to urge that when decisions are taken on non-competition grounds the position should be particularly clarified. This would apply when control of a big company passes outside Britain, as could happen with Sotheby's.

When Lord Cockfield decided in April not to refer to the Blue Circle bid for Abertaw Cement he spelt out rather more fully the reasons for his decision.

So some change could now be on the way.

Sharp fall in world borrowing

Paris (AP - Dow Jones) New borrowing operations on the international capital markets fell steeply by \$5.1 bn (£3.22bn) in April to \$11.8 bn according to the figures released yesterday by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

April's total was also well below the \$13.5 bn raised in February.

The OECD commented that the drop in borrowing activity in April was more apparent than real. However, it noted that the February figure had been swollen by a \$4.4 bn international bank loan to Brazil while the March total included a \$5 bn credit to Mexico.

If these "rather special" financings are excluded from the monthly totals, new international bank lending in the form of medium-term syndicated eurocredits has had a relatively strong upward trend compared with the depressed level of January.

OECD member-countries and non-oil developing countries increased their borrowing considerably on the capital markets in April.

The 24 OECD nations raised a total of \$8.8bn in April, up from \$8bn in March and \$6.9bn in February.

Sweden was the biggest OECD borrower in April, accounting for \$1.7bn of the overall amount raised. Next was Japan with \$1.2bn and France and the US both with \$1.1bn.

Christie's - the market improves

FIVE YEAR RECORD		1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Auction sales	..	98,922	125,712	175,479*	185,721*	184,721*
Revenue	..	20,103	24,848	30,973	33,947	35,076
Profit before tax	..	5,629	6,046	7,035	5,276	3,705
Earnings attributable to shareholders	..	2,853	2,974	3,002	2,768	1,630
Dividends	..	928	1,229	1,433	1,433	1,433
Retained profits	..	1,925	1,745	1,569	1,335	197
Shareholders funds	..	8,679	12,360	14,828	17,437	19,125
		p	p	p	p	p
Earnings per share	..	14.32	14.53	15.22	13.83	7.96
Dividends per share	..	4.50	6.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Net assets per share	..	42.39	60.37	72.42	85.16	95.15

*Includes buyers' premium where applicable.

The past year has been a challenging one for your Company. We have concentrated our efforts on increasing our market share and controlling our operating costs without impairing our service.

World-wide the autumn season was 21 per cent higher than the comparable period of the previous year and an all time record for Christie's.

The strong upturn in sales was reflected in the profit and loss account where the pre-tax profit for the second six months of the year was more than double that achieved in the first half. Moreover, it was the first improvement in a six month period for three years.

I am glad to say that the improvement seen in the autumn season has continued into the opening months of the current year. The signs are that the Art Market has turned the corner.

We enter our second decade as a public company in good health. We believe that we have the correct structure and world representation to benefit from a sustained upturn in the marketplace.

Christies International plc

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THF in \$1.2bn US hotel development

From Christopher Thomas
New York

Trusthouse Forte, the biggest hotel and catering group in the world, is taking a stake in a shared investment in US hotel development totalling \$1.2bn (£759m) by the end of next year.

The investment, which THF will share with pension funds

and insurance groups, will take it into a dominant position in the hotel industry in America, where it already has 550 travel lodges and seven hotels.

Fourteen hotels are planned or already under construction in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix, Orlando, Newport Beach, Miami, New Orleans, Stamford

in Connecticut and Provo in Utah.

Further expansion plans are in hand which will make THF among the largest hotel chains in America.

The group is concentrating on America in the belief that Europe is saturated with hotels. Mr Michael Flaxman, the New York-based director of development for THF Inc, said America offered the greatest

potential in the world for hotel development.

The group's aggressive drive in the US comes at a time when industry analysts predict that hotel construction will drop this year for the first time in a decade, partly as a result of the reduction in tourism brought about by the strong dollar.

The amount of unoccupied hotel space in the US rose to an unhealthy 35 per cent last year, against 30 per cent in 1980.

Granville & Co Limited.

(Formerly M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited)
27/28 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 9EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1982/83	1981/82	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E	Yield
142	120	Asa Brit Ind Oxl	134	-	6.4	4.8	7.8
158	117	Asa Brit Ind CULS	152	-	10.0	6.6	-
74	57	Aisprung Group	62nd	-	6.1	9.8	17.7
46	29	Armitage & Rhodes	29	-	4.3	14.8	3.5
326	197	Bardon Hill	326	+	11.4	3.5	13.7
143	100	CCL 110% Conv Prf	145	-	15.7	10.8	-
270	210	Cisco Group	210	-	17.6	8.4	-
86	50	Deborah Services	50	-	6.0	12.0	3.3
97½	77	Frank Horsell	96	-1½	-	-	8.0
96	75½	Frank Horsell Pt-Oxl 87	94½	-1½	-	-	10.5
83	61	Frederick Parker	62	-	8.7	9.2	10.5
55	34	George Blair	67	-	7.1	11.5	3.9
100	74	Ind Free Castings	34	-	7.3	9.5	9.9
168	100	Isis Conv Prf	168	+2	15.7	9.3	-
147	94	Jackson Group	147	+1	7.5	5.1	4.5
220	111	James Burrough	220	+4	9.6	4.4	16.1
260	148	Robert Jenkins	150	-	30.0	13.3	1.6
83	54	Scruttons "A"	69	-	5.7	8.2	9.0
167	112	Tandry & Curdell	114	-	11.4	10.0	5.1
29	21	Unilock Holdings	26	-	0.46	1.8	-
85	64	Walter Alexander	68	+1	6.4	9.4	4.9
270	214	W. S. Yeates	265	-	17.1	6.5	4.1

Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146

THE TIMES 1000

1982/1983

The World's Top Companies

The top 1000 UK companies with all statistical details plus addresses.

The 500 leading European companies and American, Japanese, Irish, Canadian, Hong Kong companies, etc.

£16.00

Available from booksellers or direct at £16.25 including postage from

TIMES BOOKS LTD 15 Golden Square, London, W.1.

PIONEER MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the members of this COMPANY will be held at the BLUNDELSANDS HOTEL, THE SERPENTINE, LIVERPOOL L3 8TN, on FRIDAY, 27th MAY 1983 at 11.00 a.m. for the purpose of transacting the following business:-

- To receive the Statement of Accounts and Report of the Directors for the year ended 31st December 1982.
- To re-elect Directors
(a) Professor G Clayton M.A. who retires by rotation
(b) Mr A R Barnes and Mr C A Youngman
- To re-appoint Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co as Auditors to the Company and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.

DATED 4th May 1983.

By Order of the Board
D BLEAZARD
Secretary

REGISTERED AND HEAD OFFICE:
Pioneer House
16 Crosby Road North
Waterloo
Liverpool
L2 0JY

NOTE:
1. A certificate granted to attend and vote may be used in any way to attend and vote at the AGM. A proxy must be a member of the Company.

This advertisement is published by Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited on behalf of BTR plc.

ACTION!

The BTR share offer represents a massive premium of 68 per cent and the opportunity to participate in BTR - a group committed to profit growth.

The offer is exceptionally generous and fully reflects any 1983 "recovery" that Tilling could responsibly forecast.

How far would the Tilling shares fall if BTR lapses its offer?

Share bid value*

Pre-bid value*

Future Tilling value

BTR - Tilling

There's no comparison.

BTR

ACCEPT THE BTR BID NOW

*Based on the middle market quotation derived from The Stock Exchange Daily Official List of BTR ordinary shares for 27th April, 1983 and of Tilling ordinary shares for 31st March, 1983.

The directors of BTR plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

Tootal Group

Earnings per share up from 3.2p to 5.3p.
UK trading profits nearly doubled.

Overseas profits hit by recession but substantial cost savings initiated.
Borrowings reduced by over £9m and gearing down from 62% to 48%.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 1983

	1982/83	1981/82
	£ million	£ million
Sales to outside customers	481.2	418.9
Trading profit before interest	23.3	22.2
Interest	9.4	11.9
Share of profit of associated companies	13.9	10.3
Profit before taxation	1.0	4.5
Taxation	14.9	14.8
Profit after taxation	3.4	6.9
Minority interests	11.5	7.9
Profit before extraordinary items	1.9	2.1
Extraordinary items	3.6	5.8
Profit/(loss) attributable to Tootal Group plc	(1.9)	(26.4)
	7.7	(20.6)
Dividends per Ordinary Share	2.35p	2.35p

The Report & Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 27 May 1983.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester on 22 June 1983.

The above results are extracted from the full Group accounts for the year ended 31 January 1983 which carry an unqualified audit report and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

TOOTAL GROUP plc
Tootal House, 19/21 Spring Gardens, Manchester, M60 2TL.



British & Commonwealth has taken another step to rid itself of the dowdy steamship image...

High Tech shipping line

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, April 25, Dealings end, May 6, Contango Day, May 9, Settlement Day, May 16.

latest stake in Leopold Joseph at about the 210p. Confirmation is expected shortly...

Beecham 2p to 388p, Boots to 247, Distillers 4p to 248p and Grand Metropolitan 5p to 338p.

from General Felt Industries for Sotheby Parke Bernet. GFI with 30 per cent of the shares...

hotel to brewing group, had called off talks with Pleasurama over several of its London casinos...

Tarmac yesterday confirmed that it had sold its entire stake in Candeco Resources...

Heavy selling has greeted this weeks full year figures from Fosco Minsep, the metallurgical specialist chemicals group...

60p to 465p as the first closing date for the offer expired. Investors may now have to endure a six month wait before hearing the Commission's verdict.

On the bid front, The Monopolies and mergers Commission took the market by surprise by referring the £60m

Table with columns: 1982-83 High Low Stock Price Chg % Yield Div. Includes BRITISH FUNDS and MEDICALS.

Table with columns: 1982-83 High Low Company Price Chg % Yield Div. P/E. Includes sections for COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, and DOLLAR STOCKS.

Table with columns: 1982-83 High Low Company Price Chg % Yield Div. P/E. Includes sections for BANKS AND DISCOUNTS, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES, and COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward. Table showing market rates for various currencies and terms.

Money Market Rates. Table showing clearing bank base rate 10%, discount rate, and week fixed rates.

Other Markets. Table showing exchange rates for Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Hong Kong, etc.

Dollar Spot Rates. Table showing rates for various countries including Ireland, Netherlands, Belgium, etc.

Euro-Deposits. Table showing rates for various currencies and terms.

Gold. Table showing gold prices in London and other locations.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS. Table showing rates for various investment trusts.

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Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

CRICKET: SIX CENTURIES AS THE GAME GETS ON TOP OF THE WEATHER

Sussex make a lemming-like rush into the new season

By Alan Ross

HOVE: Sussex have scored 115 for nine against Nottinghamshire

Sussex have made some bad starts to the season but few...

It would scarcely be possible to have two opening bowlers...

On a morning that began damp, and grew progressively more bitter...

Parker scored four through the slips, and then leg before to Hadlee...

The afternoon was a washout, thick drizzle, and freezing cold...

McEwan and Fletcher set like cement. The day, from tentative sunshine...

McEwan, Fletcher set like cement

By Peter Marson

CARDIFF: Glamorgan, with all first innings wickets in hand, are 291 runs ahead

Centuries by McEwan and Fletcher, who had made 151 not out...

Assuming command, Fletcher reached his pinnacle turning Rowe to leg for a single...

So far so good. But, as Fletcher and McEwan came to bat...

With 100 of his own clearly within reach, Fletcher was the only batsman showing the way...

These two big hitters apart, McEwan looked to be in very good order...

It was 10 minutes to three before Lloyd, with Eric Jones's help...

LEICESTER: Derbyshire, with all first innings wickets in hand, are 295 runs ahead

Two hours of splendid stroke play from David Gower...

Peter Roebuck and Jeremy Taylor laid the foundation for the Somerset score...

In full conditions, on a dry pitch but very wet outfield...

Inchmore bowled for a long spell without luck, but Priddon breaks through...

Derbyshire's decision to field first against Nottinghamshire...

The Test and County Cricket Board will discuss Yorkshire's proposal for a County Championship...

LEICESTER: Derbyshire, with all first innings wickets in hand, are 295 runs ahead

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Second-century man: Stovold's bat punched hearty holes in the Surrey bowling

When Surrey needed Stovold like a prefrontal lobotomy

By Alan Gibson

BRISTOL: Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs ahead

Stovold, however, is the man of the moment and scored his second century...

Beinbridge was second out, bowled by Clarke...

Surrey did not bow very well, there were too many no-balls...

Knight put Gloucestershire in, which puzzled even if the sun had continued...

There were too many no-balls, bowled by Clarke...

Willey's form in evidence

By Richard Streeton

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire have scored 270 for eight wickets against Hampshire

Willey, with a disciplined century, rescued Northamptonshire yesterday...

Willey's first innings was played amid the unfortunate echoes of the season's first domestic ceremony...

Willey and Larkins were both witnesses on behalf of Northamptonshire's former head groundsman...

Willey and Larkins were both witnesses on behalf of Northamptonshire's former head groundsman...

Willey, whose stance seemed more two-eyed than last year, always timed the ball smoothly...

Daniel recalled for World Cup

The West Indies party for the Prudential World Cup next month includes 10 of the players who were in their victorious side in 1975...

India beating us, show how close this year's tournament could be...

The new comers are Logie (batman), Davis (fast bowler) and Dujon (wicketkeeper)...

India, who returned 93 behind on first innings, declared at 247 for five...

West Indies are favourites to win the competition again, but Lloyd was cautious...

India, who returned 93 behind on first innings, declared at 247 for five...

Yorkshire plan on agenda

The Test and County Cricket Board will discuss Yorkshire's proposal for a County Championship...

Yorkshire plan on agenda

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Yorkshire plan on agenda

Caution slow to drain away

By John Woodcock

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORDS: Middlesex have scored 10 for no wicket against Lancashire

On another infinitely frustrating day Lancashire bowled six overs...

While the main ground was deserted yesterday morning Middlesex were practising on the Nursery ground...

As it was, Childs had Butcher stumped before the close...

GLoucestershire First Innings

SURREY: First Innings

GLoucestershire First Innings

SURREY: First Innings

GLoucestershire First Innings

Drift of defeat sucks in Miss Koppen for a sad final bow

From Richard Eaton, Copenhagen

The great career of Lene Koppen, world champion in 1977...

Miss Koppen led 7-1 in the final game before an irritating bout of shuttle testing...

Both surprises should have improved English chances...

Mrs Podger overran the capable Sweden Maria Bengtsson...

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

WILTSHIRE: First Innings

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Lene Koppen: party spoilt

Tuesday and looked certain to be scratched...

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MIDDLESEX: First Innings

WILTSHIRE: First Innings

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Dibbs: forceful personality

The American challenge, although small in number, will produce the start of two successive days...

Miss Flom was followed on 73 by a Scot, Catherine Pantan...

But it is in adverse conditions that class most tells...

Miss Pantan has found life hard on the American circuit...

MCC for Dibbs

For the second successive year MCC have chosen their next president...

Mr Dibbs has a reputation as a trouble-shooter...

Mr Dibbs is 64. He was educated at Whitgift Middle School...



Mikkola the one to catch

MOTOR RALLYING: Hannu Mikkola, of Finland, takes a formidable lead into the next round of the world championship...

Perugia (AP)—The top-seed, Virginia Ruzici, of Romania, became a persistent Barbara Ross of Italy...

MISS ROSSI: Miss Rossi's service in the eighth game of the first set for a 5-3 lead...

BOXING: Neville Meade, of Swansea, will defend his British heavyweight title against the David Peay...

SNOCORE: The world champion, Steve Davis, will take part in the first televised mixed doubles match...

DAVIS: Steve Davis, will take part in the first televised mixed doubles match...

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Valladolid (Agencies) - Julian Gorroaldio, of Spain, regained the overall lead in the Tour of Spain race...

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Opinion of clubs divided over revised TV offer

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
The Café Royal is the setting for the next, but possibly not the final, episode in the dispute over televising football.



Clay: "League's most important meeting ever"

No hope of final reprieve admits the players' man

Reforming the FA disciplinary system could cause more than a few sleepless nights for Gordon Taylor, the professional Football Association secretary.



Missing out: Moses (left) and Foster

Taylor added: "It was also pointed out that Brighton have been playing teams who have been missing through suspension."

Aberdeen priority is now for Real

Aberdeen have conceded defeat in the tightest Scottish premier division title race for years and turned their attention towards next week's European Cup Winners' Cup final in Gouthanburg.

McEnroe attacked by Lendl

Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, the world No. 1, has made clear that he is no longer prepared to put up with the kind of behaviour which John McEnroe displayed when beating him in the World Championship final.

Grand National is £2m short of the target

Negotiations between the Jockey Club and Bill Davies, the owner of Aintree Race Course, are now at a deadlock.

Jockeys appear in film stunt

Three National Hunt jockeys, Gerry Mann, John Burke and Gerry Gracy are substituting as stunt men for the filming of the life story of the former jockey Bob Champion.

The Noble Player finds the going easier than most

The gallops at Lambourn have become so desperate after all the recent rain that Barry Hills and Paul Cole, two of the leading trainers, have resorted to transporting horses to the track.

Salisbury results

Table of racing results for Salisbury, including 1.30 Wincanton Stakes, 2.30 Faust Handicap, and 3.30 Eddie Reavey Auction Stakes.

Britain have the first laugh

The gentle erosion of the cliffs of United States imperialism continued last night at a party in Manhattan.

Rogue car stops African match

Nairobi (AFP) - In Africa, a football match can be stopped for many reasons but, for the first time in Kenya's history, a League game has been interrupted by a car being driven on to the pitch.

Player of players

Charlie Nicholas is in line to collect his second award for the season when the "Player of the Year" is announced on May 15.

Russians send their strong man

Moscow (AFP) - The Double world champion and triple world record holder Vladimir Salnikov of the Soviet Union, widely regarded as the best long-distance swimmer of all time, will take part in the three-way international with Britain and Canada in Leeds on Saturday.

Swimming

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
FA Youth Cup Final, second round
FRONTIER: Lanchester v Darlington

Player of players

Charlie Nicholas is in line to collect his second award for the season when the "Player of the Year" is announced on May 15.

POOL PROMOTERS ASSOCIATION CERTIFIED PPA DIVIDENDS

ZETTERS POOLS LONDON EC1 TREBLE CHANCE POOL 4 DRAWS... £3.20

LITTLEWOODS POOLS LIVERPOOL ANOTHER BONANZA WEEK £1.8 MILLION TO WINNERS EVERYWHERE

VERNONS POOLS LIVERPOOL Winners everywhere this week on the £2 Million PLUS SIX GOES A PENNY TREBLE CHANCE

VERNONS POOLS LIVERPOOL Winners everywhere this week on the £2 Million PLUS SIX GOES A PENNY TREBLE CHANCE

CRICKET County championship (11.0 to 6.30) BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Surrey

FOOTBALL KICK-OFF 7.30 unless stated FA Youth Cup Final, second round

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BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION play-off (best of three) Los Angeles Lakers (W) 112-97 Boston Celtics (L) 100-108

BASEBALL AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston Red Sox 2, Oakland Athletics 1; Boston Red Sox 2, Oakland Athletics 1

BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston Astros 4, New York Mets 3; Houston Astros 4, New York Mets 3

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McBride's pride: shooting a cagey glance over a septet of man-eaters



Those unsmiling Irish eyes of McBride suggest that there could be a lion, if not a kiwi, in the path of MacNeill, Irwin, Campbell, Fitzgerald, Keirnan, O'Driscoll and Ringland

Lions and their handlers must pull together on safari

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The seventh team to represent Britain and Ireland in the 1977 Lions tour to New Zealand...

1977 Lions to New Zealand being the best of them. This will be Claran Fitzgerald's first major tour as captain...

than a Saturday side and a Wednesday side. This could be the making of some players, such as Steve Boyle...

created a fine impression on tour with the All Blacks in Wales in 1980 but dropped out of the game through injury...

Donal Lenihan, the Ireland lock who attracted a reception given by the New Zealand High Commissioner in London...



Lenihan the Lion stays at home

because of a back injury. In 1980 it was the turn of Andy Irvine, the Scotland full back...

Party is over for Lenihan

By Alan Hubbard

Donal Lenihan, the Ireland lock who attracted a reception given by the New Zealand High Commissioner in London...

Bruno's jab will go to the hard school for further education

By Alan Hubbard

Sooner or later Frank Bruno will have to pick on someone nearer his own age and physique...

Such Cassarian praise will not be lost on Bruno or Lawless who intend to visit the gymnasium and soak up the unique atmosphere in the United States this summer...

The probability is that Bruno will again end up against another off-licence puncher...

Clearly impressed with Bruno's punching power, Patterson advises the youngster to further his education in the United States...

Fracas: inquiry date set

The British Boxing Board of Control will hold an inquiry on May 19 into the unseemly scenes during and after the middleweight contest between the two contenders...

Faldo in the swing for French mission

From Mitchell Platts, Versailles

Nick Faldo begins his 1983 campaign on the European circuit when he plays in the £36,000 French Open, sponsored by Pirelli...



Faldo: in better heart

Lyle, who is taking a rest this year in company with several other leading players who feel that the French tax of 30 per cent on the prize-money is too big a price to pay...

This week is an unscheduled stop for Faldo. He was only contacted in Dallas on Saturday evening and asked if he would play after the withdrawal of Greg Norman...

Players, officials and tour itinerary

- FULL BACKS: W H Hare (Lancaster and England), H P Marshall (Blackrock, Oxford University and Ireland), J J O'Connell (Ulster and Ireland), J J O'Connell (Ulster and Ireland), J J O'Connell (Ulster and Ireland)...

RUGBY LEAGUE

London to get the final word

The new, small army of Rugby League supporters in London and the South is being mobilized in an attempt to raise the attendance at Saturday's Challenge Cup final...

Chelsea agree to help Fulham

Malcolm Macdonald, the manager of Fulham football club, has asked the Fulham Rugby League side to find another venue for their match against Cardiff on Friday...

TABLE TENNIS: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

China collection

Tokyo (Reuters) - China, with two titles already in the bag, has other five events in the world championships when competition resumes today...

Why the 'combo' bat is on a sticky wicket

Table tennis has changed drastically in sight and sound since the days of wooden bats and the distinctive sound they produced gave birth to the term 'ping-pong'...

China collection

Another Swede, 17-year-old Jan-Ove Waldner, also impressed, especially against the world no 2, Zhebinhuo, Waldner had lost in the first game...

Now the Chinese have their sights on the individual events and a repeat of their performance two years ago in Yugoslavia when they monopolized the seven world titles...

Yates in the squad

Sean Yates, the British 5,000 metres pursuit champion, is a surprise selection in the Great Britain professional team announced yesterday for the Milk Race tour of Britain...

CYCLING

Yates: surprise choice Yates in the squad Sean Yates, the British 5,000 metres pursuit champion, is a surprise selection in the Great Britain professional team...

ATHLETICS

Thompson in second division

Daley Thompson, will take part in his first competition of the season when he takes part in four events for Newham and Essex Beagles in the British Athletics League...

RUGBY UNION

Final merit tables

Table with columns for Northern Division, Midland Division, and London Division, listing teams and their performance statistics.

RUGBY UNION

Table with columns for Northern Division, Midland Division, and London Division, listing teams and their performance statistics.

RUGBY UNION

Table with columns for South and SW Division, listing teams and their performance statistics.

RUGBY UNION

Table with columns for South and SW Division, listing teams and their performance statistics.

Law Report May 5 1983

Court of Appeal

Husband's army grant not to be paid into court

Walker v Walker
Before Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce, Lord Justice Griffiths and Sir Roger Ormrod
[Judgment delivered May 3]
A wife was not entitled to have her husband's army resettlement grant paid into court until the trial of issues relating to ancillary relief, the Court of Appeal held.

Mr Joseph Jackson, QC and Mr Nicholas Mostyn for the wife; Mr E James Holman for the husband.

LORD JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE said that the husband and wife were married in April 1976 and had three children. In June 1981 the wife petitioned for dissolution of the marriage.

In October 1981 the wife sought financial provision and made inquiries while the husband was still a serving soldier whether his resettlement grant could be preserved by consent.

A decree nisi was granted on March 24, 1982 and on April 1, 1982 the husband was discharged from the Army.

The wife had a payment grant entitlement of £2,436 under the provisions of a Royal Warrant. On April 2, 1982 the wife applied under the provisions of section 37 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 for preservation of the fund of £2,436.

On April 5 the registrar granted an injunction against her Majesty's Paymaster General to pay the money into court and on April 6 that order was amended to include the regimental paymaster.

The Ministry of Defence raised objections and the application was transferred to the High Court. On May 6 the decree absolute was granted.

On May 21 the husband's solicitors took themselves off the record and the wife took no further part in the proceedings.

On July 29, 1982, Mr Justice Sheldon held that section 203 of the 1955 Act precluded the court from making an order which the registrar had made ordering the Paymaster General to pay the resettlement grant moneys into court in the event of their not having been paid to the husband.

Divisional Court

Expenses claim forms not open to public

Brookman v Green
Before Lord Justice Goff and Mr Justice Mann
[Judgment delivered April 27]
Claim forms submitted to a local authority by councillors for payment of expenses were not "documents" deposited with the... officer of a local authority within the meaning of section 225(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 where their use as a record had been superseded by computerised records, and were not therefore available for inspection by local government electors.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by the chief financial officer of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council by way of case stated against his conviction by the Morley Justices in West Yorkshire for obstructing Mr Harold Green, a ratepayer, from inspecting the documents relating to councillors' expenses, to wit claim forms submitted to section 225(1) of the Act.

Accordingly, the ratepayer had no right to inspect the claim forms, and the chief financial officer's conviction was quashed.

Lord Justice Goff agreed. Solicitors Mr Lawrence A. Tawn, Wakefield; Hallinan Blackburn Gittings & Co.

Mr Robert Harrison for the chief financial officer; Mr Gervase Bradford for the ratepayer.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that the appellant was in his capacity as chief financial officer, responsible for receiving documents pursuant to section 225(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. The respondent was chairman of the Wakefield Ratepayers' Association and a person entitled to inspect such documents in accordance with section 228(5) and (6) of the Act.

Correction

In Horcal Ltd v Garland (The Times May 4) counsel for the defendant was Mr Stephen Powles, not Fowles as printed.

La crème de la crème

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and see if you can manage - yourself, that is, and the resources of this Company. The Company is a sales and marketing organisation in the exciting field of microchips, and is a subsidiary of a respected British Public Company. We are currently looking for people aged between 22 and 34 who are employed as Secretaries, P.A.'s, merchandisers or in sales promotion to join us as Sales Executives. No technical or sales knowledge is required as full training in all aspects of our industry will be given.

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If this applies to you, then consider seriously this opportunity. It's an opportunity that will provide challenge, job satisfaction and real career prospects. The job is selling Kelly Girl's temporary help service to all types of companies throughout London. The challenge is convincing prospective customers that at least there's a temporary help company that provides a high standard of service and professionalism.

Kelly Girl

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A fully qualified Secretary is required to work for the Deputy Director in our busy Mails Operations Department at Post Office Headquarters in Central London. The Deputy Director has special responsibility for mechanisation policy and projects. As an equal opportunity employer we invite applications from both men and women. Candidates must be keen, intelligent and have good personal qualities displaying tact, tolerance and reliability. The successful candidate will be given personal responsibility and must be able to work on their own initiative. They will be expected to work under considerable pressure when required.

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Apply in writing to CATHERINE LYNCH A. & F. S., 37 Queensgate, London, S.W.7

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The American Institute for Foreign Study, the educational travel organisation requires a pa/secretary for its director of programmes. Applicants must be aged 22+ with initiative and experience of working under pressure. Fluent German, plus good shorthand and typing skills, (100/60) are essential, French and Italian useful. The work entails daily liaison with individuals/organisations throughout Europe and offers a real opportunity to use languages. Other benefits include 4 weeks holiday, private medical insurance and a non contributory pension scheme.

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LOCATION: BAKER STREET, LONDON W1 SALARY: £7,500 PLUS BENEFITS INCLUDING PREFERENTIAL MORTGAGE TERMS. We are looking for a well educated, career secretary who will have had several years experience as senior level, to work for the Principal Assistant to the General Manager. Exceptionally good shorthand/typing skills are needed. Experience in information gathering - and in the filing of data - is an important aspect of this job. A good telephone manner and a flexible and cheerful approach to your work, plus the desire to use your own initiative, are all important qualities required.

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Major firm of Lloyd's brokers EC2 seeks PA (£8-10) for newly created specialist division. PRIVATE SECRETARY c £9,000 + benefits. Paced, unfrustrated and down to earth PA (£8-9) for Chairman of young successful City company.

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Career plan

17 Air St. W1 (See Desc)

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P.A./Secretary required for senior partner of well established firm of solicitors. Legal experience & complete confidentiality essential; must be mature, energetic & adaptable, with well above average secretarial skills. Top salary & benefits. Apply with usual particulars to: BOX NO 07878 THE TIMES.

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for the Development and Project Management Department of a City firm of Chartered Surveyors. Intelligent, bright personality required to join our friendly organisation in the Press Centre complex. Above average skills and a keen efficient manner will be rewarded with a commencing salary of £7,500 p.a. plus LV's. Please apply by telephoning KATE POWELL on 01-583 0990

SECRETARY/PA

Required by Managing Director of International Company based at London Bridge. Must have good education, be well-groomed, confident, able to work on own initiative. Previous director-level experience essential. Age 25-40. Speeds min 100/60. Hours 9.30-6 pm. Salary £7500+ aas. Usual benefits. Please write with full CV and photograph to: R. K. Kinchin, Alvm Maritime Ltd., 1-7 St. Thomas St., SE1 9TF.

HEATHROW - £8,000

Dynamic MD of leading international catering group seeks excellent catering PA. Current salary £7,500 plus a substantial bonus. Excellent training & development in the MD's various divisions. Excellent benefits & pension scheme. Immediate re-location. Exciting & challenging position. 100/60.

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Tricknaming £6,500. Our client, a British company urgently requires a senior Secretary to work for their Managing Director at their head office in Twickenham. Aged at least 25 you must have fast accurate shorthand and typing supported by strong organisational skills. You will receive a salary of around £6,500 plus a wide range of benefits.

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This Director of overseas marketing division is currently seeking a Secretary. The person who drives on total job involvement. Graduate with a proven personality with ability to action and organise on his behalf. Previous experience and good secretarial skills essential. Co-ordinates various trade, sports, club and many other ventures.

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circa £8,000 + All the hallmarks of an excellent position for lively, professional Secretary - busy interesting job content, telephone liaison, superb WI offices. Two Senior Partners (one audio, one shorthand) of well-known executive recruitment consultancy need your strong organisational ability and communication skills. Age 25+.

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£7,500 + large bonus. Experienced, confident, sophisticated PA to a solicitor. Excellent skills. Please apply to: GESS MANAGEMENT & RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS Tel: 495-4191.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Required for general duties in a food Trade Association in the West End. Duties to include general filing, library classifying and filing, retail duties at supermarket etc. Good educational standard in English and science/mathematics required. Previous office experience a recommendation but not essential. Good working conditions. Salary negotiable. Applications in writing to the Secretary, British Sugar Bureau, 140 Park Lane, London W1Y 3AA

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This great, friendly, leading and secure company in the City offers a salary of £7,000 plus a substantial bonus. Excellent training & development in the MD's various divisions. Excellent benefits & pension scheme. Immediate re-location. Exciting & challenging position. 100/60.

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Has for to go working with pleasure. We urgently need Secretaries, Copy Typists and Telephone Receptionists. Top rates. Please apply to: Lure & Tale Agency, 61-283 0111.

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WORD PROCESSING OPPORTUNITY

Word processing bureau seeks an energetic Administrator/Word Processor Operator. Applicants should have a fast and accurate typing speed and a keen eye for detail. The successful candidate will be responsible for all assignments with a variety of clients. This is an ideal opportunity for a W/P operator who wishes to broaden horizons. Experience on Park Xerox 800 would be an advantage. Please telephone: 01-734 9330

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Property Co. W.1. £4,200 p.a. RECEPTIONIST Auto Showroom, W.1. £3,800 p.a. COPY TYPIST Large Insurance Co. S.W.1. £2,800 p.a. 9.00-5.00. (Days 9.00-5.00, (Evening 6.00-10.00) (Overseas 6.00-10.00) 01 838 9822.

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I am looking for someone unusual - a real good secretary who is prepared to do just that and provide a complete back-up service to our busy MD. We are a West End public relations consultancy and the job will be demanding, but the fact we do not deal with people and situations. The right person will have a stable work life, a flexible, a sense of humour and the tact and the ability to deal with people and situations. This is a real opportunity for a W/P operator who wishes to broaden horizons. Experience on Park Xerox 800 would be an advantage. Please telephone: 01-734 9330

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We are looking for a recruitment consultant - preferably someone with marketing or personnel experience. You will be responsible for all assignments with a variety of clients. This is an ideal opportunity for a W/P operator who wishes to broaden horizons. Experience on Park Xerox 800 would be an advantage. Please telephone: 01-734 9330

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Required by small graphic design studio. Sound office experience and plenty of initiative necessary. Salary negotiable. Write to Mrs D. Hill, The Malt Barn, School Lane, Cookham, Berks.

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One experienced full-time Nurse/Secretary and one part-time Secretary (3 days per week) wanted for busy and interesting 2 surgeon practice. Applications for both positions in writing (with phone no.) to P.A.E., F.E.L. 86 Harley St, W.1.

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Inclusive Starting Salary Not less than £16,000 p.a. (A higher starting point may be agreed depending on experience) Further particulars and application form from: Chief Executive London Borough of Redbridge Town Hall, High Road, Wood, Essex IG1 1DD Tel: 01-478 3020 ext. 708 (To be returned by 27th May 1983)

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

- BBC 1
6.00 Ceezax AM. Whatever kind of TV set you have...

- tv-am
8.00 Daybreak. With Lucy Mathen and the Good Morning Britain...

- ITV/LONDON
9.30 For Schools: Pond Me; 5.47 Basic Maths...

British television is not so richly endowed with good comedians that we can afford to minimize the importance of the advent on our screens of a remarkable young entertainer called MICHAEL BARRYMORE...

CHOICE
Davidson, Spike Mullins and Sid Green. In tonight's show, there is a fantastically tricky routine involving a new interpretation of our traffic signs...

December 1981. The shock waves from the Solidarity epicentre are independent of both time and distance.

- Radio 1
11.40-12.00 Modern Art: Culsam 2.

- Radio 2
5.00am Ray Moore: 7.30 Terry Wogan: 11.00 John Peel: 12.00am...

- 10.10 For Schools, Colleges: Twigs and Wood: 10.20 Easden: 11.30 Wales and the Americas: 11.50 Close Down.

- 12.00 Gammon and Spinach: with Valerie Potts: 12.10 Get up and Get with Gary! (v): 12.30 The Saturday Afternoon.

- BBC 2
6.05 Open University (until 8.10). 11.50 Play School: see BBC 2, 8.55 until 11.25 Close Down.

- CHANNEL 4
5.00 Tennis that Counts: Adrian Panofsky continues his course of destruction at the Euro Tennis Hotel in Albano...

- Radio 4
6.00 News Briefing. 6.15 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping Calendar.

- BBC 1
Wales 12.57-1.00pm News of Wales. 1.00pm Key 1 in the Welsh: 1.05pm News of Wales headlines and weather.

- BORDER
As London except: 1.20pm News: 3.50-4.00pm Key 1 in the Welsh: 4.05pm News of Wales headlines and weather.

- BBC 1
Wales 12.57-1.00pm News of Wales. 1.00pm Key 1 in the Welsh: 1.05pm News of Wales headlines and weather.

- 7.10 Top of the Pops: The 1000th show, in stereo, on Radio 1. The Radio 1 disc jockeys will be in the studio. We see archive film of some of the earlier shows and there will be special guests...

- 7.00 Michael Barrymore: The agile entertainer in another of his half-hour comedy shows (see Choice).

- 8.00 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

- 8.00 Channel 4 News: Includes business news at 7.40, and Comment at 7.50. Plus weather forecast.

- 8.00 The Optimist: No dialogue comedy series starring Eric Riddell who, tonight, undergoes all kinds of tortures at a health farm. A girl dancer (Terry Robinson) supports him in his plan to escape.

- 8.00 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

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- 8.00 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

- ENTERTAINMENT
ALBERT S 836 3878 cc 373
CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHERS

- OPERA & BALLET
COLOURS S 836 3141 CC 340
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

- CONCERTS
BARRINGTON LLOYD American
Conductor

- THEATRES
A CHEERFUL GARDEN
THEATRE BOULEVARD

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on
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Stern hits back at diary critics

Continued from page 1
At this time Hitler was planning the invasion of Poland, codenamed 'Operation White'.

Ten days later Hitler, then staying at Berghof, his mountain retreat, wrote: 'The last few days I studied the plans for Operation White over and over.'

'Conversation with Hess. Tell him about my talk with Göring. Hess says a special plan would have to be built. He is already working on the design. What a fellow. He does not want anything about his plan to be said to Göring from now on.'

On August 8, 1939, Churchill said on the radio that no one apart from Hitler was going to make war, and the next day Hitler wrote: 'When I read the text of yesterday's speech by Churchill, I know at once who the greatest poisoner in London is. Now I can understand why thinks Churchill must be bypassed or eliminated.'

On August 15 Hitler remarked: 'Inquire again of Hess how far along he is with his plan.'

Stern says that after that Hitler was then preoccupied with the Non-Agression Pact with Russia and the outbreak of war. It leaves its account of the affair which will continue next week with Hess's reported remarks that Germany did not want to capture thousands of British soldiers at Dunkirk because this could humiliate England and

make a peace treaty more difficult.

The publication of the Hitler diaries comes after two weeks of angry exchanges throughout the world about their authenticity, and today Stern hits back strongly at its critics. In a toughly worded leading article, Herr Peter Koch, the magazine's editor, suggests there were political motives behind the accusations and doubts levelled at Stern.

Of Lord Dacre's change of opinion, which Stern strongly attacks, Herr Koch writes: 'Is Trevor-Roper perhaps following the disinformation policy of his earlier employers at MI6 because Britain finds details of the Hess case unpleasant? Was there a secret plot, supposed to be kept quiet, in which aristocratic Britons conspired with Hess against war Premier Churchill?'

Herr Koch also pours scorn on charges that the diaries are forgeries. 'Maybe the nationalistic Figaro does not like memories to be revived again of those years in which France's politicians through their weakness helped to bring about Hitler's rise.'

'Maybe the English know only too well why they have locked up certain files such as those on the Hess case until 2017. And it is convenient for Moscow to present the Hitler diaries as forgeries as long as they do not know what the Brown (Nazis) dictator noted down over his secret agreement with the red dictator, Stalin, at the cost of the Poles.'

Herr Koch at present in the United States with Herr Rudolf Rüdiger Hess, son of Rudolf Hess. He said that Stern had called on Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, to intervene with the four allied powers to allow Rudolf Hess to be allowed to look at the diaries from his prison cell in Berlin.



Doctor and patient obsessed by Hitler's intestinal troubles

By Our Medical Correspondent

One of the characteristics of egocentric politicians is a determined faith in bizarre doctors and unorthodox treatment. Mr David Irving, in his book in the diaries of Dr. Theo Morell, shows Hitler in choosing him as his medical adviser against all advice, demonstrated this trait. The diaries have re-emerged from an agency in Washington

to which they were loaned in 1946. Mr Irving has had the cooperation of Dr Morell's widow in their publication.

The recorded observations show that Hitler aged rapidly during the war.

There is general agreement that he suffered from a mild to moderate high blood pressure, an enlarged heart, and both a consultant cardiologist and Dr Morell agreed that the electrocardiograph showed obvious

evidence of narrowing of the coronary arteries.

The handwriting recently exhibited as being Hitler's is so characteristic of Parkinsonism that this aspect of his health has recently achieved even greater importance.

The description of the shake - which mainly affected his left leg and right arm - his stoop, his way of walking, and photographs of his expression, would support the diagnosis of Parkinsonism.

Further evidence not emphasized in the diary is that the shake in his left leg disappeared for a time after he suffered a head injury in the assassination attempt. A stroke, a natural rather than traumatic form of brain injury, is occasionally known to reduce the tremor of Parkinsonism.

Hitler's other great problem was his gastrointestinal tract. Today the diagnosis would probably be an irritable bowel syndrome. As in the 1940s

treatment is still unsatisfactory, but few patients could have suffered such a battery of treatment as Dr Morell prescribed for Hitler.

Hormones, vitamins, morphia substitutes, strychnine, sulphonamides, belladonna, mercury, intravenous glucose, injections of calcium all were tried, in vain, for his intestines continued to respond to stress rather than the doctor's measures.

obessed by his bowels, his flatulence and his abdominal pain. Hitler wisely refused treatment as Dr Morell prescribed for Hitler.

Dr Geisinger, another and more orthodox member of Hitler's medical team, records that Hitler contrary to wartime jokes, had normal genitalia. The tests for syphilis, too, were negative. Adolf Hitler: The Medical Diaries. (By David Irving, Sidgwick & Jackson, £10.95).

Frank Johnson in the Commons Election-crazed public on verge of disorder

As the rest of us waited for the Prime Minister to make up her mind about the general election, a man in the public gallery yesterday could stand the tension no longer.

He cried out in protest. What exactly he cried out is immaterial. What was important about the incident was that it was proof that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's continued delay is leading to civil disorder among the election-crazed British public.

For all that it mattered, he could have cried out the routine: 'What about the workers?' Or 'What about Ethiopia's intransigent claim on Somalia?' and indeed vice versa.

As it happened, what the man chose to cry out was: 'What about the bloody disabled?' This was as good a choice as any, since the man was sitting in a wheelchair.

He was in the place at the back of the gallery reserved for the disabled. It must surely have made it the first disturbance from the public gallery in history to issue from a wheelchair. Another first for Britain!

The attendants moved in on the lone demonstrator. In a somewhat surrealistic scene, the wheelchair, for with the demonstrator still in it, was whisked sideways across the top of the gallery at high speed by an attendant and disappeared into the wings of history. But not before the protestor managed to shout out a descriptive reference to one of the ministers from one of the many departments which deal with the disabled.

was talking high-mindedly about the importance of the police doing their job 'in a way acceptable to the community'. There appeared, alas, to be no causal link between the eruption and Mr Lyon's high-mindedness.

But the House has got to pass the time somehow while it waits through this week for Mrs Thatcher to decide at the weekend whether today's local election results mean that the way is safe for June.

Listening to Mr Lyon's pieties on the subject of how beneficial it would be for the police to be ordered about more often by Labour councillors, was as good a way as any.

There was also Mr Roy Hattersley, the chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, saying from the Labour Front Bench exactly the same things as Mr Lyon from below the gangway. But no one among the Tories or the Labour right takes offence at the left-wing nature of the police when it comes from the lovable Mr Hattersley.

Members had been sitting all night on the Bill. Not all of us had felt it proper that we should spend the night with them. I had made my excuses fairly early the previous afternoon as Mr Hattersley was just getting into bed.

He was agreeing with certain concessions which the Home Secretary had made in response to liberal opinion. But Mr Hattersley has chosen to be the champion of the Wretched of the Earth this season, and so he chided Mr William Whitelaw for worrying only about the cause of 'fashionable and vocal groups affected by the Bill such as lawyers, doctors and journalists' - and, Mr Hattersley might have added, muggers.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Royal Air Force Coltishall, Norfolk, 10.55. The Duke of Edinburgh, as Grand Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, attends the Guild's Livery Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall, EC4, 6.30. The Duke of Gloucester opens the Building Conservation Trust's Care of Buildings Exhibition at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey, 3. Princess Alexandra lectures,

New exhibitions

Ceramics by Henry Hammond and paintings by Leszek Muszynski and Ann Spring (fabric wall hangings) Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until June 1). Leading entries for the Oriental Museum design competition, School of Oriental Studies, Durham University, Elvet Hill; Mon to Fri

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: A Pleasure in Words, by Eugene I. Malofsky (Hamish Hamilton, 25.95) Britain's Heritage, edited by John Julius Norwich (Granada, 212.50) Descent, by John Galsworthy (Oxford, 5.15) Death, by Gore Vidal (Holt, 27.95) Jumping the Queue, by Mary Wesley (Wacintan, 27.95) Kansas, by Gerald Collins (Hutchinson, 25.50) The New Geographical Magazine, edited by Correll Barnett (Allen & Unwin, 12.50) The Heritage of British Literature, by Elizabeth Bowen, Anthony Burgess, David Cecil, Graham Greene and Kate O'Brien (Thames & Hudson, 12.50) The Lybster and the Devil's Ladder (John Murray, 212.50) The Theme, Pompeii of the Ancient Ages, by Clarence G. Doumas (Thames & Hudson, 12.50)

Heathrow Tube

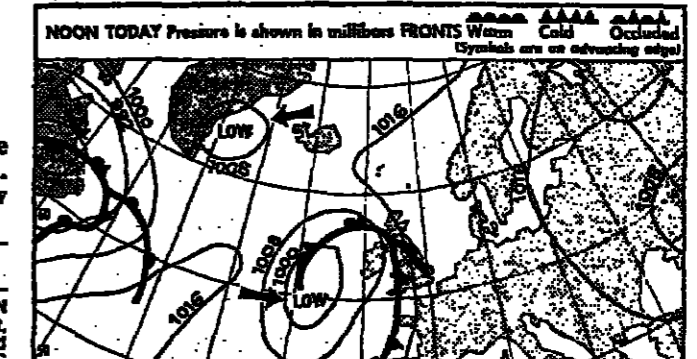
Heathrow Central Tube station is to be renamed Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3 - allow a new station to be called Heathrow Terminal 4 - London Transport announced yesterday. The new station, on a loop on which all trains will travel before returning to central London, is to open in 1985 to serve the airport's fourth terminal now being built on the south side.

Roads

London and the South-east: Tower Bridge raised at 7.05 am, 10.40 am, 2.40 pm and 3 pm; use London Bridge A13 Roadworks on New Road, Dagenham, and East India Dock Road at Limehouse. Wales and West: M4 Westbound exit slip road closed at junction 26, (Cwmbran). A39: Lane closures at Instow, Devon. A55: Temporary lights at Penmaen Head, Old Colwyn. Midlands: M1: Southbound carriageway shared for 3 miles passing junction 16 (Northampton); junction closed except eastbound bound. M1: One lane only southbound at junction 19 (link with M6). A41: Temporary signals on Newport to Whitechurch Road at Terhill Railway Bridge. North: A19: Lane closures at Thirkby bypass. M6: Northbound carriageway shared between junctions 41 (north of Penarth) to 42 (south of Cardiff). A19: Northbound carriageway shared from Low Hills Bridge to Jackson Mill; slip road closures and diversions. Scotland: Single lane each way on western approach road near Lochin Road, Edinburgh. A96: One carriageway shared at Forth Road Bridge. M8: East bound access from Provan Road closed at junction 13 from 9.30 am to 4 pm; diversions. Information supplied by the AA.

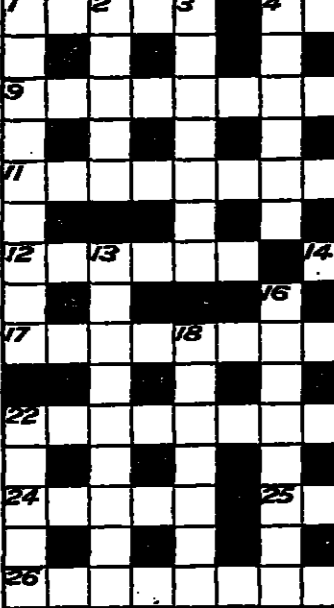
Weather forecast

A depression will move slowly towards W Ireland. Associated troughs of low pressure will cross Britain. Gam to midnight: London, SE, Central S and Central W England, Midlands: Rain, drying out bright intervals, scattered showers, wind S to SW, fresh to strong; max 15 to 17C (59 to 63F). East Angles - E England: Cloudy, bright intervals, rain at times; Wind fresh or strong; max 15 to 17C (59 to 63F). Wales, SW England, SW England, S Wales, Shropshire, some heavy rain, prolonged, bright intervals; wind S, strong, perhaps gales in exposed places; max 14 to 16C (57 to 61F). N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Showers or rain, some heavy; S of SE, fresh or strong; max 13 to 15C (55 to 59F). NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Rain, heavy in places, clearer later; wind SE moderate or fresh; max 12 to 14C (54 to 57F). Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Dry, bright intervals, perhaps rain later; wind SE to S, moderate; max 9 to 11C (48 to 52F). Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: Dry at first, rain spreading from S; wind SE to S, strong; perhaps gales in exposed places; max 11 to 13C (52 to 55F). Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Sunny intervals and showers. Overnight fog patches. Temperatures near or a little above normal. SEA: PASADENA: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: wind SE moderate or fresh; sea moderate. English Channel (E): wind S, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough. Bay of Biscay: wind SE, highest; wind S or SE, strong, locally gale; sea rough.



High tides table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, MT.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,121



Exhibitions in progress

Figuresheads from Cury Sark collection; Kongar, the Elusive Summit: Photographs of a climbing expedition in China; The Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsey; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5.30 (until May 15). Paper as image, an Arts Council exhibition, Bangor Art Gallery, Ford Gwynedd; Tues to Sat 12 to 5 (until May 21). John Platt 1728-1810, mason-architect; Rotherham and Clifton House, 1783-1983; Clifton Park Museum, Clifton House, Rotherham; Mon to Thurs 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Aug 5). Dorset people at work, by local artists, Dorset County Museum, High Street, Dorchester; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1, 2 to 5 (until June 4). Old World New World, Antiquities from the collection of Sir Henry Wellcome, City Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until spring 1985). Five modern paintings from the Tate Gallery, Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30 (until May 22). Eighteenth century costume, and 200 years of local transport, Bedford Salterton Arts Centre and Museum; Mon to Sun 2.30 to 5 (until October). Springtime: a large, mixed exhibition, Phoenix Gallery, 97 High Street, Lavenham, Suffolk; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (until Oct 27). Watercolours by Michael Whitlless; and porcelain by Julian Stair; Katharine House Gallery, The Parade, Marlborough; Wed to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 4 (until May 27). Last chance to see Sculptures by Anthony Caro, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff 10 to 5 (ends today). American Images: Paintings and drawings by John Aubrey, Faculty of Art and Design Galleries, The Polytechnic, Molinoux Street, Wolverhampton; 10 to 6 (ends today).

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Mobile Homes Bill and National Heritage Bill, remaining stages. Lords (3): Telecommunications Bill, committee, first day.

Anniversaries

Birch: Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher, Copenhagen, 1813; Karl Marx, Trier, Germany, 1818; Henry Sienkiewicz, novelist (Quo Vadis), Nobel laureate 1905, Wola Okrzejska, 1846; Archibald, First Earl Marischal, Colchester, 1833; Deaths: Napoleon Bonaparte, St Helena, 1821; Bret Harte, writer, London, 1902; Children's Day in the Republic of Korea, Coronation Day in Thailand.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, Yugoslavia.

The papers

The Daily Mirror comments: 'The latest Russian move in the peace game is to be welcomed. The British response is not.' The Russians want British and French missiles to be counted with the American ones in Europe if the Russians count their warheads. 'West would insist that they be removed along with the Russian weapons.' Commenting on the CND's campaign against companies doing work on cruise missile sites, The Sun asks: 'What makes these fanatics of the surrender movement imagine that they have an exclusive glimpse of truth and a licence to behave as they please?'

Around Britain

Table showing weather forecasts for various UK locations like Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Cardiff, etc.

Abroad

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations like Adelaide, Algiers, Ankara, Athens, etc.

ACROSS

- 1 Succulent plants put about before start of play (5). 4 How to move a bishop, or Elijah at last? (9). 9 Like mourners making halt about ten perhaps (9). 10 Bald as a coot? Can't see, with this bird (5). 11 Auburn victim of the tyrant's power (8, 7). 12 Footer as one who was wholly spiritual? (6). 14 Lose rent for repair to the mezzanine (8). 17 This sort of clue taking credit, say, for this puzzle (6). 19 Bell on this bicycle? (6). 20 Danger lurking in paradise (5, 2, 3, 5). 24 An antelope's ring-bone, one concludes (5). 25 Sturdy art the wrong way, lot o' trouble for a singer (9). 26 Dominion holding on to religious establishment (9). 27 Part of church where ale is brewed? (5).

DOWN

- 4 Holder of pot - that's right! (6). 5 French wine angels consumed, or Plantagenets (8). 6 Age-old by (7). 7 Informed about article at valued (9). 8 Irene finds him eccentric (5). 13 Rugby player from neither Greece nor Rome (9). 15 Rock one under way off Fenchurch Street (5). 16 The pub in New Place is the very top (8). 18 Sort of cash point (7). 20 Country's regalia redesigned (7). 21 Soft endorsement that isn't genuine (6). 22 Quot soccer. Mr French, to behave so violently (5). 23 You will find these mountains in it (5).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10



MUSIC

Concert by City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30. Concert by Medical String Quartet, Great Hall, Lancaster University, 7.30. Piano recital by Martin Jones, St George's Church, Brandon Hill, Bristol, 1. Concert by Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, 7.50. Organ recital by Andrew Seivewright, Wells Cathedral, 8.

THE POUND

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